Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 3 | THURSDAY JANUARY 3, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

FY2008 budget bill goes to House floor. PAGE 2

Car chase ends with driver slamming into a tree. PAGE 3

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What's your level of optimism for 2008?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Last Appeals

Uplifting appeals largely replaced stinging insults as Democratic and Republican candidates encouraged supporters to vote for them.

NATION...Page 14

Polls Delayed

Pakistan elections will be delayed by one month following the turmoil sparked by Benazir Bhutto's assassination.

ASIA...Page 15

Rose Parade

A giant blossoming rose and a Chinese dragon brought cheers from thousands of spectators at the Rose Parade.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Senator seeks Bordallo aid on federalization, power woes

Crisostimo

Bordallo

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

A Saipan senator has turned to Guam Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo for help with the Commonwealth's woes.

In a two-page letter, Sen. Luis Crisostimo listed his concerns with regard to immigration federalization, land ownership, and high power rates, and asked Bordallo for advice.

"You will agree with me that you wouldn't be receiving this letter if the CNMI has its own non-voting delegate in Congress," Crisostimo told Bordallo.

"As the political relationship between the U.S. and the CNMI is a dynamic one, it requires that the people of the CNMI be represented in Congress before any federal action is taken that would potentially impact the CNMI. To this end, I also see your assistance to secure such representation for the people of the CNMI," he added.

Crisostimo raised concern about the permanent immigration status previous-

See SENATOR on Page 4

Another go at Saipan gaming

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Lawmakers are giving the Saipan gaming proposal another try, this time submitting it as a local measure.

Outgoing Rep. Jesus SN. Lizama has pre-filed House Local Bill 15-78, seeking legalize certain gaming activities on Saipan.

The proposed legislation is virtually identical to the bill that the Senate killed last month.

As a local bill, the new version only needs to pass the 21-member Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation,

See ANOTHER on Page 4

A DANCE FOR THE NEW YEAR JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Southern Cross Island Boys dancers perform a traditional Carolinian dance number as they entertain tourists who are celebrating their new year at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

Proud parents Jaylani Teregeyo and Steiner Beltau flank newly born Locani Lora Teregeyo Beltau. They are joined here by relatives.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Locani Lora is first baby of 2008

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
REPORTER

Baby girl Locani Lora Teregeyo Beltau graced the world with her birth on Jan. 1, 2008 at 9:32 in the evening—making her the first baby born in the CNMI in 2008.

An average of three babies are usually born at the Commonwealth Health Clinic every New Year's Day but baby Locani, weighing in at 6 lbs. and 2 oz., was the only one born

See LOCANI on Page 4

PREPAID HOLIDAY SPECIAL

i415 Only $49 with FREE $42.50 airtime value and Sim Card

i835 Only $149 with FREE $97.50 airtime value and Sim Card

i455 Only $79 with FREE $60 airtime value and Sim Card

i855 Only $149 with FREE $97.50 airtime value and Sim Card

20% off on accessories

iCONNECT
Saipan - Guam Office: 888-8888
Tinian/Rota: 898-4259
www.iconnectsaipan.com

Free prepaid credits must be loaded into the new sim card upon purchase. Conditions apply.

Local

LIGHT IN THE SKY
The Hafadai hotel in Garapan is seen in the background as a spectacular fireworks display lights up the sky after the clock struck midnight to signal the start of the New Year.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

FY08 budget bill goes to House floor

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

The long-overdue budget bill for fiscal year 2008 will be brought to the floor of the House of Representatives today.

Rep. Edwin Aldan, vice chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, is expected to introduce the bill, which would appropriate $168.771 million in projected resources in FY2008.

The bill will include provision suspending government holiday pay, possibly beginning with the next legal holiday—Martin Luther King Day, Jan. 21.

Babauta

House Speaker Oscar M. Babauta said the bill had received input from both the leadership and the minority bloc. He hopes the bill will easily secure the approval of the whole legislative body.

"We have consensus on the bill. I am optimistic about it," said Babauta, who has vowed to get the appropriation act approved before he steps down as speaker on Jan. 14, 2008.

Last week, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution setting the fiscal year 2008 budget at $168.771 million.

According to the budget resolution, the government projects total resources of $174.398 million in FY2008. This includes traditional revenues, as well as resources outside of the General Fund, such as $5.171 million in Compact Impact funding and $3.5 million from previously earmarked funds deemed available for reprogramming.

However, only $168.771 million is available for appropriation for government activities. Of the difference, $3.030 million will go to the Department of Public Lands, $1.7 million to tobacco control programs, $2 million to solid waste management systems, and $450,000 to the deportation fund. Bond payments account for the $7.118 million balance.

Excluding outside resources such as the Compact Impact and reprogrammable funds, revenue available to the government amounts to $160.1 million only. This represents a decline of $3.185 million from the revised FY2007 revenue projection.

The FY2008 budget will cover the period from Oct. 1, 2007 through Sept. 30, 2008.

'Fitial may support tax hike for large earners'

Tax allergic Gov. Benigno R. Fitial may support a bill to impose higher taxes on high-income earners.

"Generally, we are against taxation. But even if we had this increase, our tax rates would still be among the lowest in the world. It's possible that the governor may support it," said press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

He added that the House-passed tax bill would exclude low-income taxpayers while causing little impact on high-income earners.

House Bill 15-243 raises taxes for those who make over $60,000 a year. It comes in a bid to raise revenue for the cash-strapped government.

Currently, people who earn any amount above $50,000 are taxed 9 percent of their total yearly earnings.

Under the bill, the tax rate would increase by one percentage point for every $10,000 earned above $60,000. For instance, those making between $60,001 and $70,000 will be taxed 10 percent. Those making between $70,001 and $80,000 will be taxed 11 percent. Anything over $100,000 will be taxed 14 percent.

The measure will become law once approved by the Senate and signed by the governor. The effective date is Jan. 1, 2008. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Embark on an exciting adventure with your Cell Phone...
Catch the
PTI MOBILE WAVE
WIRELESS • ACCESS • VIEWING • EXPERIENCE
BROWSE LOCAL, INTERNATIONAL NEWS & SPORTS
SURF THE WEB
EMAIL MESSAGING
CHECK MOVIE TIMES & CNMI WEATHER
CNMI PHONE BOOK
WITH FREE AUTO DIAL
Come to Customer Service to activate the handset & receive
100 FREE! MINUTES
• No extra or hidden fees •
Only use plan minutes for ALL DATA USAGE
* Postpaid Plan only • Excludes Nights & Weekend Subscribers
Some conditions apply
PTI
Your connection to the world
Customer Care: 682-4PTI
www.pticom.com
QUALITY CONNECTIONS
EXCEPTIONAL VALUE
TRUSTED NETWORK

NEW YEAR'S EVE CAR CHASE WITH COP

Driver ends up slamming into a tree

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTER

An intoxicated man allegedly stole a vehicle on New Year's Eve and engaged a police sergeant in a car chase from Garapan to Capital Hill that only ended when he plowed into a tree.

Nickson J. Hartman, 26, only stopped when the vehicle that he allegedly stole veered off the road, sideswiped a power pole, and rammed a tree along Guguan Drive on Capital Hill.

Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section commander Sgt. Anthony Macaranas caught Hartman, who allegedly resisted arrest. Other responding police officers assisted Macaranas in subduing and cuffing Hartman.

Hartman suffered head injuries during the struggle. After being treated at the Commonwealth Health Center, he was brought to DPS for processing, police said.

A bail hearing was set yesterday afternoon for the defendant on charges of theft of vehicle, eluding a police officer, reckless driving, driving under the influence of alcohol, refusal to submit to a breath test, operating a vehicle without driver's license, and resisting arrest.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo initially imposed a $15,000 cash bail for the defendant's temporary liberty.

Traffic investigator Flor T. Estabillo stated in his report that on Dec. 31 at 11:23pm, Sgt. Macaranas was conducting a routine traffic enforcement along Beach Road heading south near Bank of Guam when he observed a beige two-door Jeep with license plate ABR-300 heading in the opposite direction without a tail lamp.

Macaranas, who was in a marked police vehicle, pursued and came near the Jeep as it reached the Garapan Elementary School.

With the pursuit lights and siren on, the traffic commander continued to follow the Jeep, but it did not pull over and instead headed north on Beach Road, Garapan.

The vehicle made a right turn into Micro Beach Road and headed east toward Middle Road. The Jeep came to the traffic signal lights where it entered the westbound lane and exited the intersection heading north using the southbound lane.

The Jeep nearly hit another vehicle that was heading south. The Jeep's headlights were turned off as it headed north on Middle Road, Puerto Rico.

The Jeep began to pick up speed as it reached the Puerto Rico traffic signal lights by the Bank of Hawaii. The vehicle continued heading north when its right hub hit the shoulder of the roadway and the driver nearly lost control.

As Macaranas continued his pursuit, the Jeep turned right into Isa Drive and nearly struck another vehicle that was making a right turn into the same road.

The Jeep headed up Isa Drive and went off the roadway in front of Coffee Care and nearly struck another vehicle that pulled over to the shoulder of the roadway.

The Jeep continued to head up Isa Drive weaving within its lane, and turned left into Mate Drive heading up toward 1300 Blocks.

The vehicle turned right into Anatahan Drive then drove to Guguan Drive where it went of the roadway, sideswiped a power pole and finally came to a stop after hitting a tree trunk.

Macaranas walked over to the Jeep and noticed Hartman, who was the driver, jumping over to the passenger seat.

Macaranas tried to extract Hartman out of the vehicle, but the suspect held on to the steering wheel.

As the police sergeant continued pulling, Hartman landed on the pavement and injured his head.

Other responding police officers arrived and helped Macaranas subdue the defendant, who allegedly refused to put his arms behind his back.

After being treated at CHC for the injuries, Hartman was taken to DPS. He refused to submit to a breathalyzer test. At the time, he did not have a valid driver's license, police said.

On the following morning, Jae Guk Yoon called DPS and reported that his vehicle was stolen. Police learned that Yoon's vehicle was the one used by Hartman in the chase.

In May 2006, Hartman was arrested after he allegedly burglarized a house on Capital Hill that he had also burglarized a month earlier.

NEW YEAR AT PIC JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Tourists celebrate their new year at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

NMC assures financial aid for Rota, Tinian students

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College wants to reassure its students on Tinian and Rota that there will be financial assistance to help pay for their expenses, including room and board, when they transfer to the Saipan campus.

"We are building on the Northern Marianas College's commitment to ease the transition of Rota and Tinian students," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

After a thorough assessment of their budgetary requirements, the Rota and Tinian legislative delegations have identified funds that will be used specifically for Tinian and Rota students as they attend classes on the Saipan campus.

"We are pleased to be making this announcement," said Fernandez.

The funds, according to the NMC president, will allow students from Rota and Tinian to focus on their studies and educational advancements instead of worrying about the costs of attending classes on Saipan.

Furthermore, Tinian and Rota students will be allowed to take advantage of additional funds that will be distributed through municipal sources in addition to the Pell grant, CNMI Scholarship, and other financial aid that are already available to all students.

"We are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the students, who will be able to take advantage of our many programs and services, such as library and bookstore services, that were previously not available to them," Fernandez said.

She added that, "Affording students from Tinian and Rota an opportunity to attend classes on Saipan was done to conform and meet the strict standards of accreditation."

"Prior to this action, NMC had been noncompliant with accreditation requirements for academic programs for the Rota and Tinian sites," Fernandez added.

The move came about after the college decided to shut down its Rota and Tinian campuses due to these campuses' inability to provide services and maintain standards similar to the Saipan campus.

LISTEN TO
Uncle
Dave & Harry
Discuss island topics, tourism, traffic reports, community events, business & economics.
Every Friday, "Island Issues"
Listen to FM 103.9, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Man wanted for questioning

Crime Stoppers is asking the community for information on the whereabouts of Al Norita Mahora, who is wanted for questioning. On Sunday, Dec. 2, 2007, at approximately 9:48pm, patrol officers responded to a disturbing the peace, assault and battery, and assault with a dangerous weapon complaint in the DanDan homestead along Hafa Adai Avenue. The victims in this incident were two Chinese males and one Chinese female. Six suspects were believed to have been involved and, of the six individuals, three were seen getting down from a Commonwealth Utility Corp. truck bearing LP# Gov't 20 38 and marked 107 on both sides of the vehicle's bed. The victims were able to positively identify Mahora as one of the suspects involved in this incident. The weapon used in this case was a 6-inch hollow block.

DPS learned from CUC that the truck was assigned to Al Norita Mahora who was on standby before and after the incident's occurrence, as verified by his foreman. On Dec. 3, 2007, after the end of Mahora's shift, Mahora immediately turned in an annual leave form and went on leave. All attempts to reach Mahora for questioning failed.

Anyone having information about this crime, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. ***(CrimeStoppers)***

Vanuatu agency is unprepared for 2008 elections

PORT VILA, Vanuau (Daily Post/PIR)—An estimated Vt20 million will be needed by the Electoral Office to do work on registration of voters through out Vanuatu.

But Daily Post investigations has found out that the government has not budgeted for this huge undertaking by the Electoral Office since Parliament passed the bill for the Representation of the People Act (Amendment) after the budget was already approved.

Vanuatu returns to the polls in September next year which means that work must start soon on registration but nothing could be done with a reportedly meager Vt3 million budget that is allocated to the Electoral Office.

And the Daily Post has further found out that the entire Electoral Office has only four permanent staff members and it would be close to impossible for the Electoral Office to complete the registration before the Elections.

But when asked the secretary of the Electoral Commission, Principal Electoral Officer Martin Tete said that now that the law is passed in parliament they have legal obligation to carry out the registrations.

The new amendment to Cap 146 (Representation of the People Act) which allows people who live outside town area but with in town to also vote in either the Port Vila and Luganville also requires the Electoral Office to make a new registration of voters throughout Vanuatu.

Daily Post understands that the Electoral Office is supposed to contact to important elections next year.

One is the election of chief representatives to the Vanuatu National Council of Chiefs, Malvatumauri, and the other is the election of the new 52 members of Parliament in September 2008.

Tete admitted that 2008 would be a difficult year in terms of workload but he said that the Electoral Office would carry out its role although he hinted that a prompt response for an increase in their budget would be an advantage in speeding up work.

Under the new amendments which will see people from different islands but living outside the town area either vote in town or the rural will see registration officials actually meeting voters face to face to register them.

ANOTHER

From Page 1

and be signed by the governor. Most of the Saipan lawmakers and the governor have declared their support for the gaming plan, which is seen to raise revenues for the island.

If enacted, the bill would legalize Texas Hold 'em poker games in conjunction with black jack and baccarat games. It would also allow the operation of video lottery machines.

Under the bill, these gaming activities may be held only at the La Fiesta shopping mall in San Roque. The term is for 15 years or until the current land lease terminates, whichever is later.

But a maximum of 40 slot machines may be licensed for operation in any hotel or resort on Saipan having 200 rooms or more.

The bill states that the proposed gaming activities are "very viable and can be a major source of new government revenue." Initial revenue estimates are pegged at $40 million a year.

"Whatever amounts that are realized will help replace the revenue lost from the closure of the garment industry and ensure the continued funding of critical government services," the bill states.

The bill proposes an annual license fee of $1.5 million on the first 30 poker tables for each approved location, plus $50,000 for each additional table. Each specific location can have up to 40 poker tables.

In addition, an annual license fee of $50,000 is proposed for each black jack and or baccarat table licensed for operation with the approved poker games.

The bill would impose a special gaming tax of 20 percent on the net gaming proceeds of any licensed activity.

The first $250,000 of the fees collected will go to a special account to be used for scholarships.

In December, the Senate defeated an attempt to legalize gaming on Saipan.

House Bill 15-322, sponsored by Vice Speaker Justo S. Quitugua, had also sought to legalize Texas Hold'em poker games, Black Jack and Baccarat at the former La Fiesta shopping mall, and allow the operation of slot machines at La Fiesta and major hotels and resorts.

The move created an uproar in the community and even resulted in Bridge Investment Group, a U.S.-based firm planning to build a hotel and casino on Tinian, putting its project on hold.

In the end, the Saipan gaming bill fizzled as quickly as it emerged as the Senate killed the initiative on Dec. 19, 2007.

A Saipan gaming industry is seen to pose a significant threat to the existing casino industry on Tinian and to the future industry on Rota, which just passed a casino initiative.

SENATOR

From Page 1

ly proposed for long-time foreign workers in the CNMI. He asked the Guam representative whether the provision might be reinstated in the CNMI immigration bill now pending before the U.S. Senate.

He said his concern stems from the proposal's possible conflict with the newly enacted local labor law, particularly the exit requirement.

"Many businesses with nonresident workers are in opposition to this law, but this is a law now. My question is, will federalization under the House version have any impact on this law?" he said.

The senator also brought to Bordallo's attention court findings on land alienation restrictions and the constitutional requirement to invest public lands lease payments for the indigenous.

Given such, he said, "don't you think that a federal legislation designating the indigenous population of the CNMI granting them autonomy of its internal affairs, like the American Indians, would be in order?"

Crisostimo also consulted the Guam delegate on the possibility of using unspent funds for capital improvement projects to fix the Saipan power plant. He also asked if Congress might consider appropriating money for the power facility.

LOCANI

From Page 1

on Saipan this year.

Baby Locani's 16-year-old mother, Jaylani Teregeyo, glowed with happiness, managing a smile behind her weariness.

"I feel very relieved. She's finally here and I am very proud," Teregeyo said.

Teregeyo was in labor for an hour and thirty minutes when she finally gave birth to her baby the natural way.

"She arrived just right on time," Teregeyo said.

Locani's dad, 17-year-old Steiner Beltau, said he was filled with joy upon holding his baby girl in his arms.

"It is really exciting. She's a very beautiful baby," Beltau said.

A total of 1,422 babies were born in the CNMI throughout the year 2007. According to acting manager of nursery and obstetrics, Jennifer Bahatan, a year's supply of baby formula and pampers are given to the New Year baby.

"We have been doing that for years now," said Bahatan, who has been working at the OB ward for seven years.

Proud grandmother Lory Beltau said she feels very excited because not only is baby Locani the CNMI's first and only 2008 New Year baby, but she is also her first grandchild.

Parents Beltau and Teregeyo are both juniors at the Saipan Southern High School. Although both very young in age, they have nothing but high hopes and big dreams for their little one.

With the support and help of their parents, the couple plans on going back to school when the new semester commences next week.

The young couple vow to finish their education and settle before thinking about having another baby.

"We want to take things slow and have our baby grow up happy and healthy," Teregeyo said.

Samoa reduces dependency on foreign remittances

SUVA, Fiji (Islands Business Magazine/PIR)—Samoa has eased its dependency on foreign remittances despite regional figures at an all-time high.

For the last 10 years remittances accounted for more than 20 percent of Samoa's Gross Domestic Produce (GDP). However, the latest figures by the Central Bank of Samoa (CBS) suggest a significant decrease in remittance dependence.

"Provisional estimates for private remittances indicate a 10 percent—2.4million tala [US$961,423] decline to 20 million tala [US$8 million] in August 2007, reflecting a decreased inflow of funds to households," CBS stated.

With a population of close to 180,000, Samoa has gone from a subsistence economy to one highly dependent on foreign aid and remittances.

CBS indicated that private remittances into Samoa dropped by 38 percent in the earlier part of 2007—amounting to $11.8 million in total.

The inflows were mainly recorded in household private remittances and charitable organizations, which include the church.

Despite the overall drop in Samoa's remittances, the Pacific this year recorded the highest figures, compared to the last five years.

According to the World Bank, remittances to the Pacific region tripled over the past decade to reach US$425 million (A$519 million).

Although Samoa is noted as a high recipient, Tonga and Fiji are on par.

Remittance receipts account for a growing percentage of the country's GDP, according to the World Bank with shares of 41.9 percent of Tonga's GDP; 26.3 percent of Samoa's GDP; and 6.7 percent of Fiji's GDP.

"The cash that immigrants send home is a vital source of income for the daily survival of Pacific Islands households," said Dr Manjula Luthria, a senior economist with the World Bank's Pacific office.

But even with a significant drop in local reliance on remittances this year, Samoa is still very much dependent on the foreign dollar as a source of income.

According to a research by the Asia Development Bank, remittances are bi-directional because social networks continue to be significant in Samoa.

"There is no question that remittances have contributed to development in various contexts. They meet real needs especially on smaller islands in remote regions and in independent states," ADB stated.

This is a risky business however as remittances continue to be a major part of Samoa's economic growth.

According to publications by the International Monetary Fund, the economy is vulnerable to external shocks, particularly with its persistent trade and current account deficits.

A debt-sustainability analysis in 2005 by IMF showed that isolated shocks to the economy might not seriously affect debt ratios, but a combination of shocks could return the debt-to-GDP ratio broadly to the level before a mid-1990s macroeconomic stabilization program was implemented.

IMF advised that reducing the economy's vulnerability to such shocks as possible cuts in aid flows and remittances requires the nurturing of a business environment and growth in exports.

"There is room for improvement in the time taken to start a business, acquire licenses and enforce contracts," the IMF suggested.

Despite Samoa's hopes to attract investments as apparent in the 2007 Budget Address, the country remains hostile to foreign investors.

Samoa is ranked 60th out of 155 countries in the 2007 Doing Business report by the World Bank, but is expected to drop its ranking in 2008.

Apart from remittances and foreign aid, the tourism industry is Samoa's hope for higher internal revenue.

"This year, sees the biggest increase to be allocated towards tourism development, with a total of 7.3 million tala," Minister of Finance Niko Lee Hang said in his Budget Address.

New luxury hotel developments proposed in the last five years is part of this initiative. But unfortunately Samoa's hostility towards foreign investors has continued to prevent the industry from thriving.

"The land issue is one of the major factors with the current land ownership system prohibiting investment to a certain extent," says John Perrottet, Tourism Programme Manager for Pacific Enterprise Partnership of the International Finance Corporation, a World Bank Group.

Perrottet is convinced that stringent rules and less than transparent way in which investments are processed contribute to the barriers on foreign investors in tourism development in Samoa.

POLICE BRIEFS

Man on probation arrested again on 'ice' trafficking charges

A man who is currently on probation was arrested again on Monday for allegedly selling $200 worth of crystal methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Vincent David Cabrera Jr., 29, also known as Bong, was arrested for trafficking of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman ordered that the bail for Cabrera should remain at $100,000 cash—as the court had earlier imposed.

Wiseman set the preliminary hearing to Jan. 10 at 9am.

The judge appointed the Public Defender's Office to represent Cabrera. Assistant public defender Janet King appeared for the office.

A police detective stated in his report that on Sept. 20, 2007 a "cooperating source" informed him that Cabrera offered to sell "ice" to the source.

On the same day, members of the Department of Public Safety's Narcotics Apprehension Resolution Coalition and the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force conducted a monitored "buy-walk operation" using the cooperating source.

Cabrera allegedly handed the $200 worth of "ice" to Cabrera at the parking lot of Moon Night Club.

Police said the defendant is currently on probation for his previous conviction of drug charges in federal court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Man arrested for allegedly beating spouse on New Year's Day

Police arrested a 26-year-old man for allegedly beating up his common-law wife at their residence in Kagman III in the early morning hours of New Year's Day.

Jorlard Osilek Borja was detained for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Detective Andrea C. Ozawa said that when the officers showed up at the site, they saw that the victim had a swollen upper lip and blood coming out from her nose and mouth.

The victim also sustained bruises and swelling to the forehead. In addition, she sustained a cut to the right heel and complained of pain in the back of her head.

Police officers responded to Kagman III after receiving a call on Jan. 1 at 2:23am about a domestic violence incident.

When the officers arrived in the house, the victim screamed to the officers to arrest Borja for allegedly almost killing her.

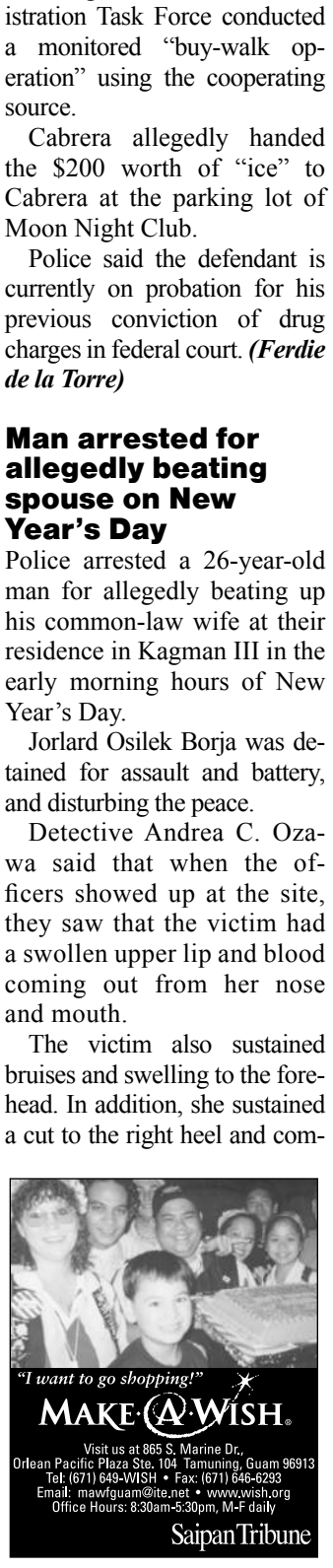
At that time, Borja was struggling with a male witness, who tried to hold down the defendant.

Witnesses said the defendant punched the victim's face several times as he held her against the wall in the back of the house.

Borja allegedly chocked the victim and pushed her to the wall, then banged her head against the wall.

A male witness came to stop the beating by wrestling the defendant to the ground.

The motive behind the beating was not mentioned in the report. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***


"I want to go shopping!"
MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

ACDelco®
Introducing
All-New ACDelco
Consumer batteries
Now available on Saipan!
BEST PRICING ON ISLAND WITH
UNBEATABLE PERFORMANCE!
Ask for them at your favorite store!
From the name that delivers unbeatable power and long lasting dependability in a car battery, is now available in a consumer battery!
"KEEPING YOU POWERED!"
MICROL
TOYOTA
WE ARE FAMILY
ACDelco®
MICROL CORPORATION
Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com
COSMOS
Distributing Co., Ltd
For resale accounts call
323-5950/58 or fax 323-5959.

Defunct security firm to pay $19K to 6 workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTER

The federal court ordered yesterday the defunct Island Security Service and its officer, Joaquin V. Deleon Guerrero, to pay a total of $19,688.96 to six former employees who sued them for non-payment of overtime, regular wages, and other fees.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson entered the judgment against ISS and Deleon Guerrero after the parties settled the case.

Munson said the parties shall bear their own attorneys' fees and court costs.

Munson dismissed with finality the claims against ISS former officer Esther A. Deleon Guerrero pursuant to the settlement agreement.

The judge ordered the closing of the file in the case.

Attorney Stephen C. Woodruff represented the workers—MD. Masum, MD. Nozir Ahmed Bhuiyan, Patit Paban Mondal, Kamruzz Jaman, Karshid Alam, and Abu Yousuf.

Attorney Michael W. Dotts served as counsel for ISS and Joaquin Deleon Guerrero.

ISS shut down operations in February 2007. The Labor director, on behalf of the workers, filed a complaint against the company and its officers for non-payment of wages.

In June 2007, then Labor administrative hearing officer Barry Hirshbein ordered ISS to pay 82 workers, excluding the six Bangladeshis represented by Woodruff, in the total amount of $216,782.29 in unpaid wages and liquidated damages within 21 days.

Hirshbein held off awarding monetary damages to the six workers pending the outcome of their case in federal court.

Woodruff appealed Hirshbein's ruling. He said ISS admitted that back wages are owed his six clients and the workers are entitled to such award without prejudice to their ability to assert their claim in federal court for a larger amount.

Woodruff said Hirshbein's refusal to make the award put the six workers at a disadvantage compared to the other individuals in the labor case. In effect, such refusal is punishing the six workers for having asserted their federal rights, according to the lawyer.

ISS, through attorney Dotts, also appealed Hirshbein's order. Dotts said the order is unsupported by substantial evidence, unwarranted by the facts presented at the hearing.

Worker in sponsorship scheme told to depart

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has disqualified an employer from hiring new nonresident workers and ordered an alien worker to depart the CNMI for engaging in sponsorship scheme.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Herbert D. Soll said Javili General Partnership, owner of Y.J.C. Auto Shop, is barred from employing alien workers for one year.

Soll ordered the worker, Lu Jianping, to depart for lack of legitimate Immigration status. He directed Javili to provide Jianping a one-way ticket to China.

Soll did not award damages to Jianping.

The hearing officer said he finds that Jianping entered into an agreement to secure a nonresident worker permit without the intent to actually work for Javili.

"She is equally at fault and is not entitled to transfer to another employer," Soll said.

He said Javili and its representative submitted an application in July 2004 for the employment of Jianping without the intent of having her work for the firm.

According to Labor records, Jianping has worked in the CNMI since 1990. After returning to China, she came back to the island to work at another job.

On Dec. 7, 2004, Jianping's contract with Javili was approved for a period of one year. She testified that she paid Javili $1,200 to process her application.

The complainant claimed that after repeated attempts to work, Javili provided no work for her. She filed her Labor complaint against the company on Oct. 24, 2005.

Javili claimed that Jianping did not show up for work and that she was working at unapproved employment instead of working for Javili.

The company said that there was no work for the complainant, but she had no intention of working on the approved job.

On Aug. 30, 2007, Javili reported Jianping's absence to Labor and asked that her contract be terminated.

Both Jianping and the person responsible for Javili's entity, Yu Feng Cepeda, have years of experience in the CNMI.

The Labor's determination points out the improbability of either party waiting as long as they did to complain of the situation facing each of them.

In his order, Soll noted that Javili waited seven months to complain that Jianping would not take up her employment responsibilities while the worker waited nine months to complain that she was not given work.

Soll said the complainant's credibility is further reduced by the fact that she claims to have paid $1,200 to Javili for the job.

Jiangping's personal interest would have directed an earlier complaint if her contention were true, the hearing officer said.

Soll said the Labor's investigator's determination finds that the relationship between the parties was not an arm's length employment contract but a "sponsorship" that did not work out as planned.

As a result, the investigator said, each party turned against the other. Soll agreed with the investigator.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The centerpiece of i Sagua is the oval stone pool that was inspired by water-worn island cliffs and with a nod to historical monuments found throughout the Pacific islands.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

N15 Architects share concept behind i Sagua Spa

By MARK RABAGO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

N15 Architects principal Christopher F. Fryling said the design of the newly opened i Sagua Spa at Hyatt Regency Saipan focused on giving the impression that everything moves slowly at the spa.

"The overall design is meant to convey that time moves very slowly in the spa. The curved shapes of the juice bar and pools allow guests to flow comfortably around the premises, and there are a lot of quiet places to relax and contemplate," he said.

Fryling said more than anything, people visit a spa to relax and that's why N15 and the Hyatt staff wanted the spa to be fresh and full of new ideas, but above all it had to be the perfect place for peace and solitude, an oasis to rejuvenate the mind and spirit.

Another theme that was incorporated in the 7,600-square foot, $1.2 million spa, which opened Dec. 21, 2007, was water—rightly so since i Sagua in the local language literally means channel of water.

Fryling added that he also had to take advantage of all that Saipan had to offer: the weather, the tropical climate, the local floral and fauna, even the local customs.

"The stone, wood, and glass materials are solid and durable, inviting people to touch them and lean against or sit on them. N15 carefully selected only a few materials for the spa and used them carefully," he said. "Most of the common areas are outside, and many of the spa products have locally available ingredients."

Fryling said the centerpiece of i Sagua is the oval stone pool that has been inspired by water-worn island cliffs and with a nod to historical monuments found throughout the Pacific islands.

He said the oval stone pool provides a "nest" for guests to enjoy the hot pool and night sky in relative privacy. In addition, the light and shadows of the pool change dramatically as the day passes, so that the pool looks quite different at different times.

Fryling said there are also several celebrated silhouettes in the spa, notably bamboo windows in the steam room in the suite, and the octagonal massage room in the garden.

He said the shadow situations were created to show off the wonderful properties of tropical light.

With regards to materials used in the construction of the spa, which took about three months to build out of the old Chinese restaurant, Fryling said N15 was lucky enough to have a sister company for materials with sources in Indonesia, China, and the U.S.

"The most common material is black slate stone. Rough pieces were used to build the pool and fish pond, small pieces were used to build the outdoor showers and display wall, and N15 even found a supplier of billiard tables who made ultra-smooth slate tiles for the common areas," he said.

Fryling said bamboo and slate were used as much as possible, because they were among the most durable tropical "'woods" available, they have interesting textures, and the bamboo has been celebrated for its eco-friendly properties.

He added that glass was used in several ways too, clear, plated, and sandblasted, because it is durable and is useful in taking advantage of strong tropical light.

N15 and Hyatt started planning for the new spa in early 2005 and after a series of concepts N15 submitted a formal proposal for the project in August 2005.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The treatment room of the i Sagua Spa at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

19-year-old makes a bold mark in t-shirt design biz

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
REPORTER

The Salbahe' Brand Disfunkshunal Gear t-shirts that many young people have been sporting on the island is owned and designed by a 19-year-old entrepreneur, Robbie Travilla.

Travilla used to work with Dexter Mendiola of "Fotten Gaga" and had done several designs for him. A year ago, as a surprise for his birthday, his girlfriend Dolores "Loli" Pangelinan printed t-shirts with his designs for the party attendants to wear.

As he walked through the front door, Travilla recalled "everyone yelling surprise and they were all wearing black-t-shirts with my own design."

"Loli inspired me to start my own t-shirt company. It was actually what pushed me to start it," Travilla said. "'Salbahe' is like the brother of Fotten Gaga."

Travilla said he has been doing artwork for as long as he can remember. At 16, he worked with his uncle, Dragon Edong of Megavision Eldrako Tattoo, as a tattoo artist. Now 19, he markets his own t-shirts and he works full-time for the Transportation Security Administration.

Travilla said he still works with his uncle at the tattoo shop and gets involved in tattoo conventions in his spare time.

"Art is where the heart is," Travilla said.

Travilla markets his t-shirts with the help of the Rock Steady Shop in Garapan, who also represented him at this year's Artists' Holiday Sale at the Multi-Purpose Center, and http://www.mytenda.com.

"I incorporate a lot of my tattoo art into my t-shirt designs. That's what makes my wear stand out from the rest. The joker logo and the tattoo art signifies what the t-shirt brand is all about," he said.

Travilla graduated high school with honors in art and since then had acquired the dream of owning a company that would show off his talent.

He designed Saipan Southern High School's Education Day t-shirt logo for this year. He had also made other t-shirt designs for other youth dancing groups.

Travilla is currently working on marketing other accessories such as pants and hats that should come out in mid-2008.

He is often making other designs to add to his line. Travilla said that he has printed several designs multiple times and that one of his top sellers is the black long-sleeved "670". He has printed the design three times and at least a dozen pieces each time.

"It has a grunge look but if you look closely, you can see the Marianas Islands chain in the print," he said.

Travilla said he is looking to market in Guam "pretty soon."

Travilla said still gets excited when he sees a total stranger wearing his t-shirts. "You know you're successful when somebody you have never met recognizes you. It's a great feeling. I cannot explain it," Travilla said.

Salbahe's 19-year-old entrepreneur Robbie Travilla, right, sporting one of his newer designs. Erik Brown, left, sports one of Travilla's top sellers. This design has already been printed thrice. According to Travilla, it's due for another printing.

RIANNE PANGELINAN

SHRM meeting to focus on federalization impact

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will hold its first General Membership Meeting of the year on Jan. 17, 2008, with Pete A. Tenorio, Resident Representative to the United States, as guest speaker.

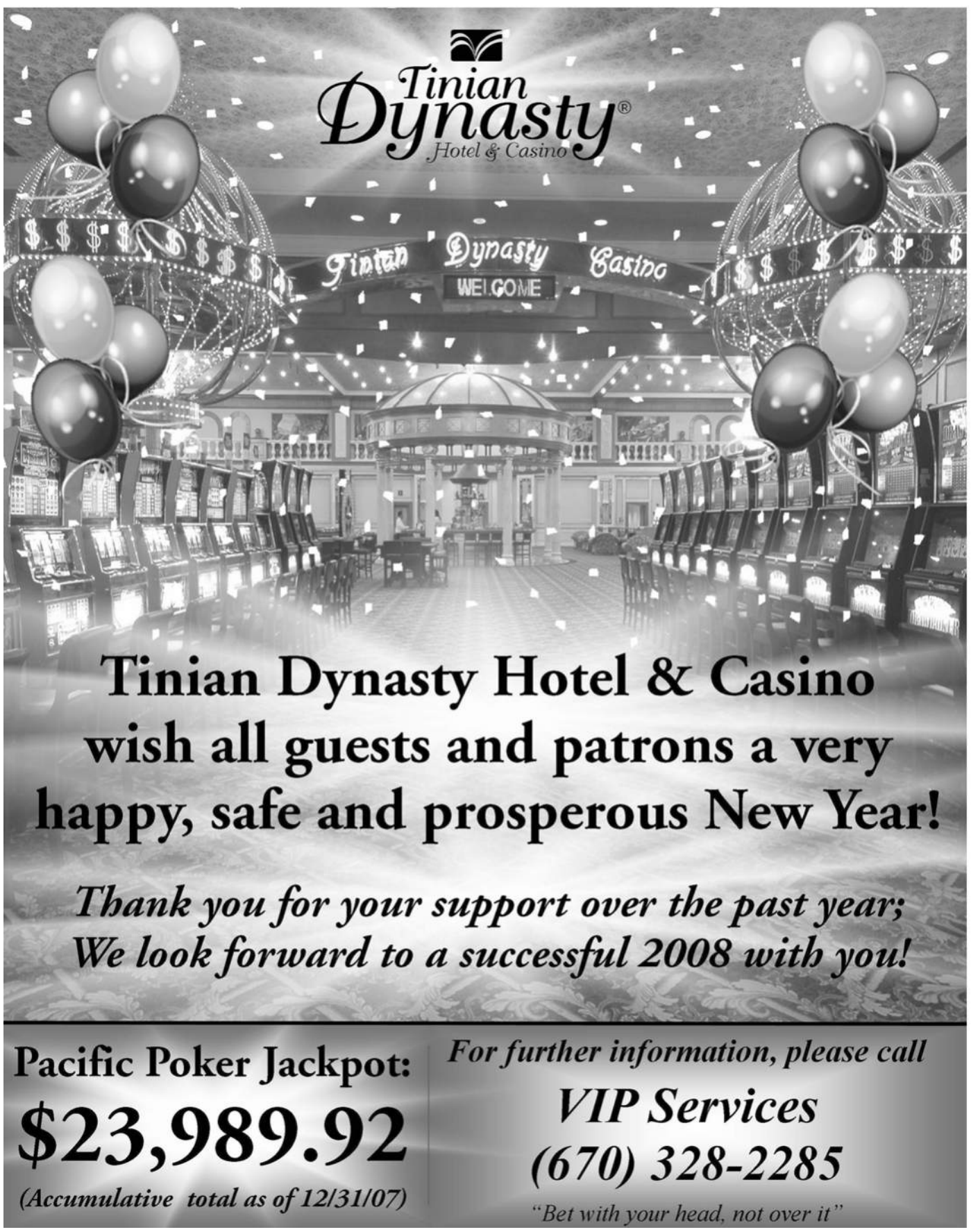
Tenorio will speak to the Chapter on federalization and its impact on the CNMI. "Tenorio will provide informative insight on the influence federalization will have on our ailing economy. This controversial issue could change affect many lives in the CNMI," said the Society in a statement issued yesterday.

The installation of the Society's 2008 board of directors and officers will also take place at the luncheon meeting. "Please come and support the next team of very capable individuals who will lead the Society and its members into the New Year!"

The Chapter meeting will be held at Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008. Doors open at 11:15am for registration. Cost for Society members is $15 and $20 for non-SHRM members. Lunch is included (government P/O accepted). Reservations are required. Individuals interested in attending this meeting should contact Tommy Kennington at phone number 234-7976, fax number 235-7789, email at hr@picsaipan.com or Frannie T. Salas at email francestsalas@gmail.com and Polly Deleon Guerrero at pdlguerrero@mymarianas.com.

The Society for Human Resource Management is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. Representing more than 200,000 individual members, the Society's mission is to serve the needs of HR professionals by providing the most essential and comprehensive resources available. As an influential voice, the Society's mission is also to advance the human resource profession to ensure that HR is recognized as an essential partner in developing and executing organizational strategy.

The CNMI Chapter is composed of human resource professionals from a variety of industries, large and small, who recognize a need for a local society for professionals in the human resource field. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. ***(SHRM)***


Tinian Dynasty®
Hotel & Casino
Tinian Dynasty Casino
WELCOME
Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
wish all guests and patrons a very
happy, safe and prosperous New Year!
Thank you for your support over the past year;
We look forward to a successful 2008 with you!
Pacific Poker Jackpot:
$23,989.92
(Accumulative total as of 12/31/07)
For further information, please call
VIP Services
(670) 328-2285
"Bet with your head, not over it"

Training on new Saipan Zoning Law

The Zoning Office is inviting the public to a training about the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 that will go into effect on Feb. 1, 2008.

A special invitation is extended to those who plan to: build a new commercial or residential structure; repair or expand an existing structure; move a business into a new or existing building; maintain an existing sign or make a new one; continue or start an adult business; subdivide property; start a home business; or continue operating or maintaining an existing use, structure, or sign that would not be allowed under the law.

The training will be held at the Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008.

Session Times and Topics:

8:30am - 11:30am, Detailed presentation for developers, engineers, architects, businesses, government agencies

1:30pm - 2:45pm, Presentation for adult businesses

3pm - 4:45pm, Presentation on signs - repair of old signs and construction of new ones

6:30pm - 8:30pm, Overview for the general public

Those wishing to attend should call the Zoning Office at 234-9663/7 or e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp. Attendees should bring a copy of the law to the training session for reference. Copies of the law and maps can be downloaded from www.zoning.gov.mp. The Zoning Office also has copies for sale for $5 at the 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan. Call 234-9663/7 for more information.

■ ■ ■

塞班区域法培训课程

2007塞班区域法将于2008年2月1日开始实施，塞班区域办公室邀请所有公众参加针对此法规的培训课程，特别是那些计划建造商业性或居住性建筑；计划维修或扩建现有建筑设施；搬迁新址进行商务工作；继续使用现有标识或准备使用新标识；继续从事或者准备从事成人产业；资产分割；开始从事家族产业；以及那些继续在现有基础上从事工作的市民们。

地址：Multipurpose Center, Susupe

日期：2008年1月8日，周二

日程安排：

上午8时30分至11时30分：针对建筑开发商、工程师、建筑师、商人和政府机构的详细培训；

下午1时30分至2时45分：从事成人产业的培训；

下午3时至4时45分：修复旧标识和建立新标识

下午6时30分至晚8时30分：针对大众人群的介绍

如有准备参加的市民请联系区域办公室234-9663/7或者Email: staff@zoning.gov.mp。参加市民请携带一份日程安排作参考。所有有关此项法规的条例和地图可以在网站www.zoning.gov.mp 下载，也可以在区域办公室购买，每份5美元，地址在DanDan的Joeten Building 2楼。如需要其它详情，请拨打234-9663/7。

■ ■ ■

サイパン地域区分法(ゾーニング)トレーニングのお知らせ

ゾーニング事務所では、2008年2月1日から開始される2007年サイパン目的別地域区分法のトレーニングを開催いたします。今後新しい商業用ビルを建設予定の方、新築予定の方、既存の建物の修理または拡大予定の方、既存のビルに新しく移動予定の方、既存の看板を維持または新規に作成する予定の方、アダルトビジネスを存続または新規に開始する予定の方など、関係各社の皆様にはご参加されることをお勧めいたします。

場所: ススペ地区 多目的会館(マルチパーパスセンター)

日程: 2008年1月8日(火曜日)

スケジュール: 午前8時30分から11時30分－関係機関からのプレゼン

午後1時30分から2時45分－アダルトビジネスに関するプレゼン

午後3時から4時45分－看板、修理等に関するプレゼン

午後6時30分から8時30分－まとめ

参加ご希望の方は、ゾーニング事務所234-9663・9667、またはメールアドレス staff@zoning.gov.mpまでご連絡下さい。参加者はトレーニングセッションのコピーをお持ち下さい。コピー、事務所の地図等はウェブサイトwww.zoning.gov.mpにてご覧いただけます。また、ゾーニング事務所では5ドルでコピーの販売も行っていますので、ダンダンジョーテンビル2階までお越し下さい。

ご質問ございましたら234-9663・9667までご連絡下さい。

Native medicine office seeks part-time workers

The Inetnon Åmot Natibu/Ammwelil Safeyal Faluwasch (Native Medicine Association of the CNMI) has found a home on Capital Hill, establishing itself at House number 1213 to carry out its federal grant award from The Administration for Native Americans (Social and Economic Development Strategies) under the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Human and Health Services.

The purpose of the ANA award is for enhancement of cultural self-sufficiency through revitalization of traditional medicine.

The office is now seeking high school and college students who are interested in CNMI indigenous cultures and traditional medicine for part-time jobs to assist in the publication of CNMI indigenous traditional healers and identification of CNMI medicinal plants.

Volunteers to help with the project are also welcome.

Students seeking part-time jobs are asked to send an e-mail and provide name and school to ianasfnma@gmail.com. For more information, call 483-4441. ***(PR)***

Magnitude 5.5 quake rattles PNG

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A 5.5 magnitude earthquake struck the seabed near Papua New Guinea on Wednesday, the U.S. Geological Survey said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

The pre-dawn quake was 83 kilometers (52 miles) north of the coastal town of Lae and 385 kilometers (240 miles) north of this South Pacific nation's capital, Port Moresby, it said in a statement.

It was 63 kilometers (39 miles) beneath the earth's crust, it said.

The quake was too small to trigger a Pacific-wide tsunami warning.

Parts of Papua New Guinea, an archipelago nation, are frequently shaken by quakes.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of '83 meeting

The 25th year reunion of the Marianas High School's Class of '83 is just a few months away and we would like to remind those of you who have not purchased event tickets to do so now without delay. Our March 2008 deadline is fast approaching.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008, 7pm, at Ms. Frances (Mildred) Cruz's residence in Buenas Noches Street, DanDan Area. Please come and join us as we finalize plans for our reunion.

Contact any of the Steering Committee Members for details.

- Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665
- Viola Kaipan at 483-0214
- Ed Camacho at 483-5262
- Jane Tudela at 234-9571
- Frances Mildred Cruz at 483-0995
- Ester Teregeyo at 285-6284
- Ben Sablan at 287-1480
- Diego Songsong at 287-4300

Kagman High School reminders

Kagman High School students are reminded to pick up their class schedule at the cafeteria on Jan. 7 and 8, 2008, between 9am and 12pm. Jan. 7 is for all Juniors and Seniors, and Jan. 8 is for all Freshmen and Sophomores. To all parents, report card day is Jan. 11, 2008. ***(PR)***

WSR Elementary January events

- Jan. 5, Saturday Reading Program, 8am to 10am/10am to 12pm (breakfast and lunch provided)
- Jan. 9, Parent Advisory Council meeting, 5:30pm, WSR Library
- Jan. 10, 3rd Quarter begins (everyone reports back to school)
- Jan. 10-11, NJHS Selection begins
- Jan. 12, Saturday Reading Program, 8am to 10am/10am to 12pm (breakfast and lunch provided)
- Jan. 14, Flag ceremony (sponsored by 5th grade students), 8am
- Jan. 16, PTSA Meeting, 6pm, WSR cafeteria
- Jan. 18, 2nd Quarter Awards Ceremony
- Jan. 19, Saturday Reading Program, 8am to 10am/10am to 12pm (breakfast and lunch provided)
- Jan. 21, Martin Luther King Day (no classes)
- Jan. 22, STUCO meeting, 2:30pm, Room D-5
- Jan. 23, Nov/Dec/Jan Diners Club (2nd and 3rd grade in charge), Pizza Night fundraising
- Jan. 26, NJHS Induction Ceremony (details TBA later)

Saturday Reading Program, 8am to 10am/10am to 12pm (breakfast and lunch provided)

- Jan. 29, Spelling Bee finals, 2:30pm, WSR cafeteria
- Jan. 30, Half-day (Teacher Professional Development Day

The WSR Library will be open from 9am to 4pm from Jan. 2 to Jan. 9. Students and parents are encouraged to come to the library and borrow books and use the resources. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JANUARY 3, 2001

Oil firms monitor world prices of gas

Although world prices of crude oil have already started sliding, the adjustments are not enough to warrant a rollback in local prices of petroleum products but major companies disclosed they are strictly monitoring the trend in the international market. Major oil retail industry players in the region—Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. and Shell North Pacific—are not likely to disclose immediate plans but stressed that they remain abreast of the situation in the world market.

CNMI greets 2001 with grand fireworks display

TINIAN—A crowd of 3,000 stood in awe as the island of Tinian pulled off what local officials described as the biggest and most spectacular fireworks display in the entire Pacific region last New Year's eve in celebration of the entry of the third millennium. Pyrotechnic devices imported from China lit up the skies for a full 18 minutes after revelers joined in the countdown to 2001 at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino grounds during the island's second grand new year's eve party that drew both local and foreign guests.

Peso hits new record low at P52:$1 after bombings

The Philippine peso hit a new record low of P52 to the dollar yesterday on security concerns following a wave of deadly bombings that hit Manila, brokers said. The peso opened at 50.75 Tuesday and by mid-morning had slid to P52, dealers said. It closed at P50.01 to the greenback on Friday, the last trading day for 2000.

JANUARY 3, 2002

New laws give investors more reason to do business in NMI

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio jumped the gun yesterday on the Three Wise Men by bearing gifts for the CNMI's investors in the form of two newly-signed laws, which effectively give them more reason to continue doing business in the Commonwealth. Just four days shy of The Epiphany, Tenorio simultaneously signed into law House Bill 12-380 and House Bill 12-391, which amends the Investment Incentives Act to benefit pre-Act investors and clarifies the CNMI's tax laws to avoid double taxation, respectively.

Transition panel told: Respect govt workers' privacy rights

It seems the Transition Committee has embarrassed itself again, after it apparently tried to secure private information about some personnel in the course of their work, resulting in the Attorney General's Office issuing an opinion upholding the privacy rights of government workers. This came to light after the Transition Committee accused the Office of Personnel Management of having communication problems with the Developmental Disabilities Council and scolded it for disseminating the Attorney General's opinion on access to personnel records to other departments.

No money for Marpi landfill

The government may have taken a step forward by finally awarding to a consortium the contract for the construction of the Marpi Solid Waste Facility, but it still needs to hurdle another major problem to effect the closure of the Puerto Rico dumpsite—the much-awaited closure has been left with practically no funds.

JANUARY 3, 2003

MPLA board approves reorganization

To be more focused and efficient in its operations, the Marianas Public Lands Authority Board of Directors yesterday approved a new organizational chart that resulted in the creation of two new divisions. From the previous five, the new chart showed six divisions directly under the deputy commissioner's office headed by Frank Eliptico.

Youths train on media devt

Youth leaders gathered yesterday at the Aqua Resort Club to undergo a weeklong workshop on media development that would run up to January 7. During the kick-off training, youth leaders discussed proper presentation of media subjects, brochure and poster making, proper dissemination of information, and newspaper publication.

JOETEN'S BEST BUYS OF THE WEEK!

Jan. 3 - 9, 2008

YOUR ONE-STOP SHOPPING CENTER

Department Store and Supermarket!

Angel Soft Bathroom Tissue 4 Rolls
$1.69

Western Family Regular Ultra Bleach
96oz.
$2.79 /ea.

Rubbermaid 6.5 qrt. Storage Box
$2.99

Rubbermaid 12 qrt. Storage Box
$5.75

Rubbermaid 19 qrt. Storage Box
$8.99

Family Size Cooler with Wheel 42qrt.
$32.99

Director's Chair
$19.99

JOETEN ACE HARDWARE

New Arrival!
CFL Light Bulbs

Spiral CFL Warm Light 13W sku # 3225430

Spiral CFL DayLight 13W sku # 3225497

Spiral CFL Warm Light 15W sku # 3225570

Spiral CFL Day Light 15W sku # 3225703

Spiral CFL Warm Light 20W sku # 3225711

Spiral CFL Day Light 20W sku # 3225752

$3.99 ea.

Spiral CFL Warm Light 23W sku # 3225778

Spiral CFL Day Light 23W sku # 3225844

$4.99 ea.

2008 Savings!

POWER 65 Battery

As low as $62.95

Call 234-1179 or Visit Us

Our New Location at Joeten Motors!
Limited offer, while supplies last.

NAPA AUTO PARTS
MARIANAS NAPA, INC.
WE SELL PARTS FOR ALL KINDS OF CARS & TRUCKS

SUSUPE SHOPPING CENTER TEL.: 234-6446 THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M. / SUN. 8:00A.M. - 7:00P.M.

DANDAN SUPERMARKET TEL.: 235-6016 MON. THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M.

HAFA-ADAI SHOPPING CENTER TEL.: 234-7596 MON. THRU SUN. 8:00A.M. - 11:00P.M.

BIG BARGAIN STORE TEL.: 235-5372 MON. THRU SUN. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M.

ACE

GUALO RAI BRANCH Gualo Rai Commercial Center Tel.: 235-9322 Fax: 235-9325

SAN VICENTE BRANCH San Vicente Road Tel.: 234-3176 Fax.: 235-1686

SUSUPE BRANCH Susupe Shopping Center Tel.: 234-3117 Fax: 235-7568

Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 3

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

John Pangelinan PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Crisis in Kenya

Kenya appeared close over the weekend to successfully completing a groundbreaking democratic election that would have, for the first time, forced an incumbent president to leave office. Instead, eleventh-hour manipulations by President Mwai Kibaki and his ruling party have robbed the vote of credibility and plunged the country into near-chaos. By late Monday, news services reported that more than 135 people had been killed in rioting, much of it involving fighting between members of Kibaki's Kikuyu tribe and the rival Luo group, which backed opposition candidate Raila Odinga. The Associated Press said that police had been ordered to shoot to kill to disperse mass demonstrations.

The violent backlash by Odinga's supporters was indefensible. But most of the blame for the crisis should fall on Kibaki, 76, who has been a good steward of the Kenyan economy but apparently balked at the prospect that he would be voted out of office. Odinga, a populist, led in most pre-election polls; a day after Thursday's vote he had amassed a large lead in initial counting, even as more than half of Kibaki's cabinet was defeated in parliamentary voting. Odinga's party captured about 100 parliamentary seats, three times the number of the ruling party. A classic opposition landslide appeared to be underway.

Then, on Saturday, voting tallies were mysteriously delayed in parts of Kenya where Kibaki is more popular. When they finally came in, some reported improbably high turnout or totals of votes that had inflated by tens of thousands in a matter of hours, all in the president's favor. On Sunday, Kenya's electoral commission rejected proposals for a recount and proclaimed Kibaki the winner by a narrow margin. He promptly had himself sworn in for a new term, banned live television and radio broadcasts, and vowed to put down unrest by force.

Kibaki's actions threaten to reverse all the progress Kenya has made since he replaced longtime strongman Daniel arap Moi five years ago. The European Union's chief observer has said the vote count lacks credibility; after initially endorsing the election commission's decision, the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi also cited "serious problems." On Monday, four members of the commission issued a statement saying information they received "casts doubt on the veracity of the figures." The commissioners spoke of initiating a judicial process, but that could take months or even years. What's really needed is a quick and credible recount of the votes, with the participation of international monitors. The Bush administration and other Western governments should be pressing Kibaki to accept that solution.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Antiestablishmentarianism

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at rikv@bizresults.org.

Back in the late 60s and early 70s, the Establishment was viewed with suspicion and distrust by many of the younger generation. The assassinations of JFK, MLK, and other world leaders fomented conspiracy theories and caused people to question. Civil rights were enlarged, while individual rights diminished. The Cold War and Cuban Missile Crisis created greater tension, while large numbers of young men were conscripted into an unpopular war in Vietnam that had little to do with national security.

Antiestablishmentarianism was coined to describe an attitude or doctrine of opposition to the social and political establishment. Adherents viewed the power exercised by the Establishment—government and big corporation—as corrupt, repressive, excessive and self-serving. Social and political norms were challenged by youthful freethinkers, which caused the generation gap to widen even further.

Today, there are still signs of growing distrust in the government as it acts as "big brother" to its plebeian citizenry. On the local front, youthful contenders to the status quo are becoming more vocal and even entering the political arena on Saipan. They are not afraid to voice their opinion and stand up to the Establishment they feel may be out of touch with its constituency and the greater good of the islands.

On the federal level, a grassroots movement is taking place that the mainstream media has tried to ignore. However, the Internet has helped create a groundswell of support for a presidential candidate that was largely unknown until a few months ago. On Dec. 16, 2007 (the anniversary date of the Boston Tea Party that helped spark the American Revolution) Congressman Ron Paul gained over $6 million to support his presidential bid. This broke his previous one-day online fundraising record of $4.3 million on November 5, 2007.

We became aware of Congressman Paul (Republican from the 14th District in Texas) after participating in an online straw poll. We felt the typical party candidates touted by the mainstream media would garner the most votes, and we were surprised when the results showed Ron Paul significantly in the lead. After doing an online search of the candidate, we can see why many who had become apathetic to the current party politics are invigorated by a possible president who is striking a chord with a large demographic swath of voters.

Now that the Establishment-controlled media cannot ignore him because of his popularity, they are doing their best to marginalize his campaign by misconstruing his message. However, their attempt to orchestrate a media makeover gives his concepts even more credibility.

One of the things we find refreshing is that Congressman Paul seems to speak from his convictions rather than from a politically correct script developed from a public opinion poll. Unlike other politicians that sprinkle their speeches with platitudes and crowd-pleasing promises they have no intention of delivering, Paul's track record has been amazingly consistent throughout his 17-plus years in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Paul is a medical doctor turned politician, author of over a dozen books, and a family man with five children and married to the same lady for over 50 years. He doesn't fit the anarchist profile that the media would like one to believe. Even though his views threaten the Establishment's stronghold, he is less of an antiestablishmentarian and more of a Constitutionalist. He believes the bigger-is-better government bureaucracy that pervades our lives is contrary to the intent of the Founding Fathers and the Constitution.

He has been nicknamed "Dr. No" because it reflects both his medical degree and his contrarian insistence to not vote for legislation unless the proposed measure is expressly authorized by the Constitution. His policy on nonintervention made him the only 2008 Republican presidential candidate to vote against the Iraq War Resolution in 2002. He advocates withdrawal from the UN and NATO in order to maintain strong national sovereignty. Paul has regularly voted against almost all proposals for new government spending and taxes, has never voted to approve a deficit budget, and if elected he would eliminate personal income tax, which he says assumes the government owns individual's lives and labor.

Next week, we will share some critical points to his message that should be understood—even if he is not elected. These points are relevant both in the U.S. and here in the Commonwealth. Rather than cock-eyed, idealistic dreams, his views are backed with careful research and aligned with the ideologies espoused in the U.S. Constitution—the basis for the original Establishment to guarantee individual liberty. The more Paul speaks the more the party-politics of the current Establishment seems to have strayed from the Founding Fathers to promote their antiESTABLISHMENTarianism doctrine.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

It's the hair, stupid!

By JIM SHEA
(c) 2007, The Hartford Courant

Shea is a columnist for The Courant.

So far, we have been asking these questions:
Is America ready for a woman president?
Is America ready for a Mormon president?
Is America ready for a black president?

But the question we have not been asking: Is America ready for a bald president?

Never mind his personal life, his revisionist record, his prickly personality. The biggest obstacle facing Republican front-runner Rudy Giuliani is not what's between his ears, it's what's above them.

This should be worrisome for Republicans, because this country has not elected a bald person president since Dwight Eisenhower in 1956.

The hairy record:

In 1960, John Kennedy's hair beat Richard Nixon's hair by a hair, and in 1964 Lyndon Johnson's slicked-back follicles beat the Brylcreem out of Barry Goldwater's.

In the 1968 and 1972 presidential elections, Nixon came back against two opponents—Hubert Humphrey and George McGovern—who both were obviously well on their way to chrome domeification.

In 1976, Jimmy Carter whipped wispy Gerald Ford, whose head, if you were to believe comedian Chevy Chase, was one large bump looking for its next accident.

Ronald Reagan may or may not have been a great president, but there is no denying he had the best right-wing hair of all time, which is why he opened a can of whup on Carter and Fritz Mondale in 1980 and 1984.

Michael Dukakis probably had superior hair to George H.W. Bush's in 1988, but then Dukakis did that ridiculous photo-op from the tank, and the helmet he was wearing and his hair became confused in voters' eyes.

In 1992 and 1996, Bill Clinton's "Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow" hair made Bush's and Bob Dole's "On the Road to Mandalay" hair look old-fashioned and out of step.

In 2000, Al Gore looked like he had better hair than George W. Bush, but from the right angle you could see he was soon going to be spray painting a burgeoning bald spot. This reality is probably why the Supreme Court awarded the election to Bush.

In 2004, John Kerry and John Edwards boasted the best all-time hair by a pair of running mates, a distinction that proved to be to their disadvantage because while you cannot be too rich or too thin, you can be too coiffured.

Which brings us to 2008, where the Republicans are in big trouble.

Right now, three of the top four GOP candidates—Giuliani, John McCain and Fred Thompson—haven't got enough hair among them to produce a halfway decent comb-over.

Mitt Romney, on the other hand, has a lot of hair, but it is Mr. Perfect hair, and not a style voters trust.

The Republican hair situation is so dire that, in desperation, Republicans are beginning to migrate toward Mike Huckabee hair.

On the Democratic side, Edwards has, in effect, shot himself in the hair with his $400 haircuts, while Barack Obama wears his hair so short as to take it out of play.

Hillary Clinton, who has never been comfortable in her own hair, is currently going with a style her hair people describe as an "inevitability bob."

Arguably, the most presidential hair in either party belongs to Chris Dodd, but, unfortunately, his silvery locks have yet to catch fire.

Letters to the Editor

Facility access: A matter of respect for our elders

This will be a prelude to what I anticipate will be a string of writings on this subject in the form of complaints, lawsuits and the likes against businesses and government agencies who deny individuals with mobility impairments access to their services due to structural barriers. This should serve as a general reminder for all businesses and government agencies who do not already comply with accessibility requirements to get into compliance. Also, I hope it serves as a catalyst for individuals who continue to be denied access to file complaints and pursue legal action to remedy the problem.

The prevailing laws on this matter have been on the books since the early nineties and by virtue of said laws alone businesses should be compelled to comply; however, I thought I'd touch briefly on the cultural significance of this issue. One of the oldest and arguably the most valued aspects of our islands' cultures is a general respect for our elders and subsequently a respect for the elderly. That said, the people who stand to benefit most from accessible facilities include our elderly, many of whom are strong in every sense except that they have limitations in mobility. These same people would be well-served if everyone simply adhered to certain accessibility concepts, yet we continue to see businesses operating out of inaccessible buildings, government agencies with offices on the second floor without accessible routes and people nonchalantly blocking designated, accessible parking spaces. By providing services to the public without offering accessible routes, business owners and government agencies are essentially telling our elderly along with other people who have mobility impairments that they are not welcome. Think about that…in our islands, we love and revere our "man'amko", but we don't want them to come to our places business and we don't care if they can access our government's services.

As a matter of good business sense, why wouldn't all businesses be proactive in their efforts to provide real access to as many people as possible? Doing so increases your customer base and opens up the potential for more highly qualified employees, some of who receive federal support to facilitate business efforts. I imagine we could identify some businesses already benefiting from this concept and we should be looking to them for advice and information on this matter.

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) has received some complaints related to this issue including but not limited to the matter of accessible parking spaces. As a general matter of policy, we will only pursue complaints when presented by individuals with disabilities; however, at present we are considering bringing actions in our own name on behalf of others based on representational standing. The following summarizes the types of complaints being presented and the manner in which we are currently addressing them (this is not exhaustive list of complaints received):

LACK OF ACCESSIBLE PARKING

Some businesses continue to operate without even designating an accessible parking space as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Local Accessible Parking Act--generally speaking, there should be one accessible parking space for every twenty-five available spaces. There really is no gray area when it comes to this issue…you either have a designated space, or you don't. NMPASI has been successful on numerous occasions in compelling businesses to comply and will continue to represent individuals with disabilities in such cases;

DESIGNATED PARKING WITHOUT AN ACCESSIBLE ROUTE

Even more insulting than not designating a space at all is the practice of marking off designated spaces without providing accessible routes to enter an establishment. Imagine pulling into an accessible parking space and getting out to enter a place only to find that you would have to climb several flights of stairs to gain access – keep in mind that for some even an inch high threshold at an entrance is too difficult either to step over or to roll over. Currently, NMPASI is also drafting a complaint to be filed on behalf of an aggrieved individual with a disability.

LACK OF ENFORCEMENT

NMPASI has received at least one complaint that the Department of Public Safety does not enforce the accessible parking laws. To date, DPS has not been able to provide any information that might suggest otherwise. Still, in hopes of enlisting the support DPS to be more vigilant in their enforcement of said laws, NMPASI drafted proposed legislation which aims to establish local fines for non-compliance and have said funds funneled to DPS to support their enforcement activities.

Generally speaking all private and government businesses must provide access for people with mobility impairments. Still, it is my hope that those in charge will make modifications to their facilities not because they have to, but because they want to let everyone to have access to their services. Continued indifference to this issue perpetuates non-compliance with the laws of our land, but even more sadly it disrespects the laws of our culture. For more information, please feel free to call NMPASI at (670) 235-7273/4 [tel.] / 235-7278 [tty] or check in with us at www.nmpasi.com .

Jim Rayphand
Program Manager, NMPASI

Thank you, Mr. Miguel

Thank you for taking notice of the letter I sent to the editor. I must say, your reply is very enlightening on my part, and also discouraging. I almost can't believe that the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners' office has only one staff. But I will take your word for it. I have to say that such case is the exact opposite of the case back home in the Philippines where agencies are overcrowded with personnel, mostly doing little work and too much nonsense talks. I must admit, I feel sorry for (and I hope I have not offended) that lone office staff of CBNE. But I bet he/she's too busy to read my letter. I'm sure CNMI authorities can help that staff's problems and improve customer services, given that in your own words, tons of applications go through this agency. They wouldn't want that income to go somewhere else. Surely, once the CNMI solves that problem, that will also solve my problem. I'm just hoping it will be soon enough. Again, thank you.

Mario Apurado Jr
Siikeston, Missouri

A damaged car and a cow with broken legs

My husband was on his way to work at 12 midnight and to his surprise, there was a young cow standing on the inner lane and before he could even react, it was too late and he hit the cow. Fortunately, he was okay and warned other incoming drivers about the cow who was now sitting in the opposite lane, with three broken legs. Thank you to "Alvin" who was kind enough to assist my husband and for calling 911 and to let me know that he was in an accident but was okay. Thank you.

Minutes later, police arrived and "investigated" and calmly assured my husband and father-in-law that they would find the owner of the cow to notify them of what just happened. They (the police officers who responded to the scene) said that if they didn't find the owner of the cow, the cow would be "ours." If anyone saw the damage to our car, anyone would agree that this young cow is not even close to what the damage was worth. But the officers said that they would contact us in three days to a week about anything we need to settle with the owner of the cow. I called my cousin for assistance because we really didn't know where anything was going, and how we could be assured that someone was going to pay for the damage... and I don't mean us.

Anyway, this guy came over about two to three hours later, claiming that this was his cow. My cousin, who knows the owner, told me that this guy is NOT the owner but the officers let him take the cow anyway. After that, all they said was they are sure that insurance will pay for the damage. When I checked, however, our insurance doesn't pay for third parties. I am really upset because this has gone nowhere. We have spent money on damage that we aren't responsible for. No owner was really found. And is it really my husband's fault that a cow was let loose at 12am on the road.? I don't think so. Aren't you supposed to tie your animals down so that they are NOT a danger to the public? If that accident had caused a fatal accident, would it still be acceptable to just take the cow in payment for someone else's life? I dont think so. Even after we find the cow's owner, he or she is not likely to pay for any damages. We are entitled to take the cow but we didn't get anything but a really damaged car. I forgot to mention that this was right after Christmas night, Dec. 26th. On Christmas eve, I learned that a friend of a friend got into an accident that was probably caused by the same cow that wasn't tied up. He ran into a pole trying to avoid hitting the cow. I don't think he got any justice either.

I wanted to voice this out because a lot of things are happening with some police officers who don't necessarily know how to handle certain situations. Any advice from the readers on how to get some resolve from this problem, please feel free to let me know. We need to put a stop to all the "connections" on island. I'm getting tired of calling the police and not getting any help. Just to clarify, not all officers are like this. Please help. Thank you.

Marie Sayson
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲82° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲83° ▼76°	▲82° ▼75°	▲82° ▼75

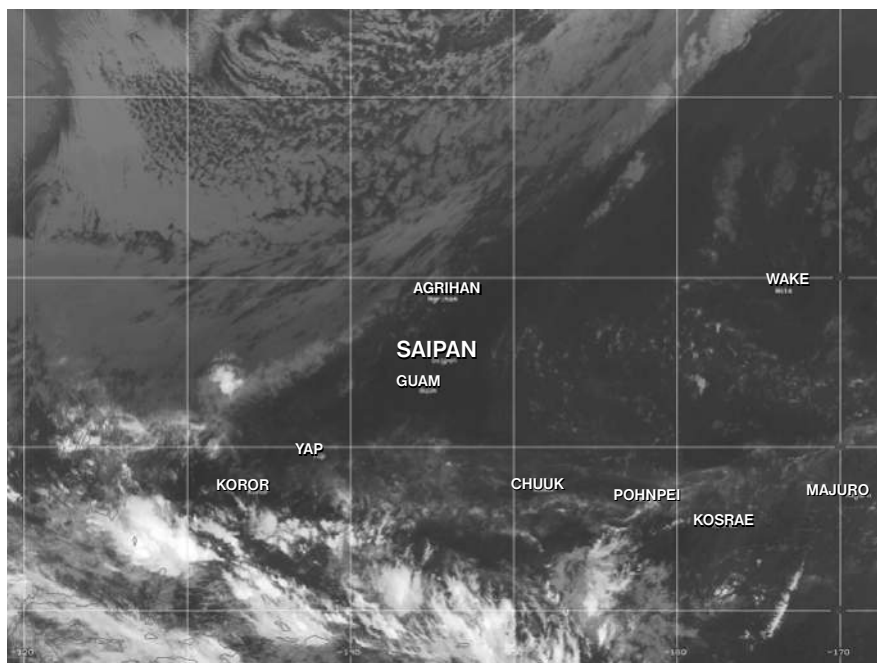
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼75
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼79
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼64
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲38	▼23
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲65	▼55
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲77	▼70
London	Rain/Snow	▲41	▼34
Los Angeles	Showers	▲65	▼52
Manila	Showers	▲83	▼71
Melbourne	Windy	▲84	▼68
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲65	▼54
New York	Cold	▲22	▼16
Osaka	Cloudy	▲46	▼35
Paris	Showers	▲40	▼38
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼24
Rome	Rain	▲48	▼44
Salem	Showers	▲45	▼39
San Francisco	Rain	▲58	▼51
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲34	▼16
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲52	▼39
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲31	▼22

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from just northwest of Minami Tori Shima at 25N153E to 22N150E where it continues as a shear line through the northernmost Mariana Islands at 20N145E to beyond 130E at 10N. Widespread cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 500 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough stretches eastward from 3N130E to EQ148E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring south of Koror and Yap or south of a line from 6N130E to 5N143E to EQ150E. A weak surface trough reaches northwestward from EQ155E to 7N150E. Scattered showers cover an area southeast of Chuuk between the equator and 4N from 152E to 157E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
05:26AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
09:25AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
03:03PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:57PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44AM	5:59PM
Friday	6:44AM	5:59PM
Saturday	6:44AM	6:00PM
Sunday	6:45AM	6:00PM
Monday	6:45AM	6:01PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	02:04AM	01:40PM
Friday	02:54AM	02:22PM
Saturday	03:47AM	03:07PM
Sunday	04:40AM	03:57PM
Monday	05:33AM	04:51PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contribution are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 25, 2007

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	1,2,4,5,6,7
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:30am	11:10am	Daily

Guam-Nagoya

CO 971	7:45am	10:30am	1,2,4,5,6,7
NW 023	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO 904	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:30am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Guam-Narita

JO 982	4:15am	7:00am	Daily
CO 961	7:20am	9:55am	Daily
CO 006	1:00pm	3:45pm	Daily
JO 942	3:30pm	6:15pm	Daily
NW 081	3:55pm	6:50pm	Daily
NW 073	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO 963	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:15pm	1,2,3,5,6,7

Guam-Hongkong

CO 910	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

ARRIVALS

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,4,5,6,7
CO 9316	3:30am	4:20am	2
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	10:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
OZ 607	6:50pm	2:50am+1	3,7 via Busan
OZ 607	7:30pm	2:50am+1	4 via Busan

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Nagoya-Guam

NW 024	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily
CO 970	11:30am	4:00pm	Daily
CO 905	8:25pm	12:50am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Narita-Guam

JO 941	9:30am	2:05pm	Daily
NW 074	9:45am	2:25pm	Daily
CO 962	11:05am	3:35pm	Daily
CO 007	5:15pm	9:50pm	Daily
NW 082	8:30pm	1:15am+1	Daily
CO 964	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
JO 981	9:30pm	2:05am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:20pm	1,2,3,5,6,7

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

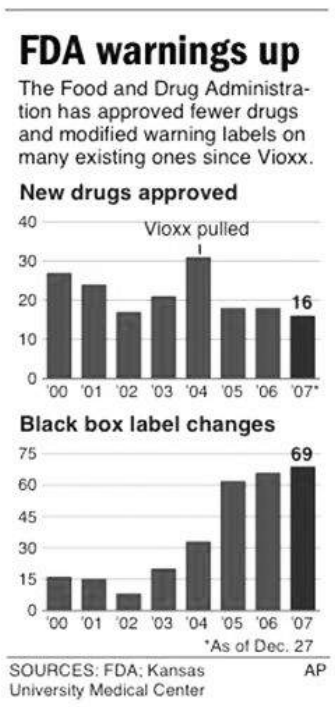
(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business


FDA warnings up
The Food and Drug Administration has approved fewer drugs and modified warning labels on many existing ones since Vioxx.
New drugs approved
Vioxx pulled
16
'00 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07*
Black box label changes
69
'00 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07
*As of Dec. 27
SOURCES: FDA; Kansas University Medical Center
AP

Analysts foresee more boutique drugs

WASHINGTON (AP)—There is no quick remedy for what ails the pharmaceutical industry: a tougher environment for drug approvals and a dwindling pipeline of new medications.

But these twin challenges—evidence that the heyday of blockbuster drug-development is over—are forcing the industry to ponder big changes in the laboratory. The biggest, analysts say, is likely to be a shift toward finding treatments for patients with rare diseases, or unusual strains of common afflictions.

By focusing on boutique medications, analysts say, drug makers will arouse less scrutiny from regulators, who have become extra sensitive to the potentially fatal side effects of widely prescribed medications for ailments such as arthritis and diabetes. The growing need to market niche treatments is also dictated by the reality of the business, in that there are fewer widespread maladies for which a popular pill doesn't already exist.

A lot is riding on the industry's ability to navigate this transition. For years, drug makers such as Pfizer Inc. and Merck & Co. could count on new blockbuster drugs to deliver double-digit profit growth. In the last two years, however, patents expired on Pfizer's blood pressure treatment Norvasc, Merck's cholesterol drug Zocor and more than $40 billion worth of other drugs. Meantime, the Food and Drug Administration delayed or denied would-be blockbuster therapies made by Sanofi-Aventis SA, Wyeth and others.

With profit growth slowing across the pharmaceutical industry, Pfizer and GlaxoSmithKline PLC—the world's first- and second-largest drug makers—each announced plans in 2007 to lay off thousands of employees.

Venezuela introduces new currency

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela launched a new currency with the new year, lopping off three zeros from denominations in a bid to simplify finances and boost confidence in a money that has been losing value due to high inflation.

President Hugo Chavez's government says the new currency—dubbed the "strong bolivar"—will make daily transactions easier and cure some accounting headaches. Officials also say it is part of a broader effort to contain rising prices and strengthen the economy.

"We're ending a historical cycle of ... instability in prices," Finance Minister Rodrigo Cabezas said Monday, adding that the change aims to "recover a bolivar that has significant buying capacity."

Prices have risen as Chavez has pumped increased amounts of the country's oil income into social programs, reinforcing his support among the poor and helping to drive 8.4 percent economic growth in 2007.

The Central Bank is promoting the new monetary unit with an ad campaign and the slogan: "A strong economy, a strong bolivar, a strong country." Officials, however, have yet to clearly spell out their anti-inflationary measures.

Some Venezuelan critics, meanwhile, have dubbed the new currency the "weak bolivar," noting its predecessor, the bolivar, has seen its purchasing power suffer in an economy where inflation ran roughly 20 percent in 2007—the highest in Latin America.

AP

A security guard stands next to oversized images of Venezuela's new currency, "Bolivar Fuerte," or "Strong Bolivar" at the central bank in Caracas in this Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007, file photo.

Venezuelan economist and pollster Luis Vicente Leon said that while the new currency may provide "the perception of stability" for some, it is largely a "cosmetic change."

Government officials say the change is overdue to bring Venezuelan denominations into line with those of other countries in the region. Instead of denominations in the thousands, the largest new Venezuelan note will be 100 strong bolivars.

"It was necessary to leave behind the consequences of a history of high inflation," Central Bank president Gaston Parra said in a televised year-end speech. He said officials aim "to reinforce confidence in the monetary symbol."

The new money was distributed to banks and automated teller machines nationwide ahead of Tuesday's launch and will be phased in during the next six months. Venezuelans will be able to use both old and new bolivars during the transition.

Post newspapers close after 126 years

CINCINNATI (AP)—The Cincinnati Post said goodbye with its final edition Monday—its presses stilled after 126 years.

"-30-", a symbol traditionally used to signal the end of a dispatch, was the front-page headline in the last Cincinnati edition, about an hour before printing of its sister Kentucky Post marked the final run for the daily newspapers.

In a front page story about the closing, editor Mike Philipps said: "It's a sad day, but we're going out with heads high. This paper made a difference in the community."

The Post and its sister Kentucky Post edition have struggled for decades, like other afternoon newspapers, in a climate that has challenged even the nation's most storied dailies. E.W. Scripps Co., based in Cincinnati, decided in July to close The Post newspapers when a joint operating agreement with Gannett Co. expired. Joint operating agreements allow newspapers to combine business operations when one faces financial ruin.

Gannett, which owns The Cincinnati Enquirer, notified The Post three years ago it would not renew the 1977 agreement when it expired at the end of 2007.

Philipps, a 30-year veteran of the newspaper, said final editions were focused on the newspaper itself. Some 9,000 copies were to be printed in addition to the standard weekday circulation of some 27,000 papers.

"We're going to make ourselves count right to the end," he said earlier.

The staff will now clean out drawers, turn in keys and laptop computers, finish their paperwork and turn off the phones.

"It'll be like it always is at The Post—we'll be too damn busy," Philipps said. "It's not going to really hit until the next day."

The Post was known for colorful journalism, investigative pieces and crusades against political cronyism and calls for civic reform. The paper has launched many notable careers in journalism, communications and education.

Chinese stock market wraps up year

SHANGHAI (AP)—This year, the world discovered the Chinese stock market.

Investors in China poured their money into shares like never before, sending the market on a turbulent, stunning, record-breaking ride.

And around the world, people took notice: In February, for the first time ever, a plunge in Chinese stocks triggered a global market sell-off, suggesting the potential sway this heretofore ignored market will have in years to come.

China's market quickly recovered and the Shanghai Composite index went on to soar 97 percent this year, making it the world's best-performing major benchmark index.

But the year ahead isn't going to be as rewarding, analysts say, and the volatility will likely continue.

"It was a nice rally," UBS economist Jonathan Anderson wrote in a recent report. The market in 2008 "may not be nearly as exciting."

While many Chinese believe the government will to try to keep the markets on an even keel ahead of the Beijing Olympics in August, other risks loom. Beijing is struggling to keep inflation in check and could continue to raise interest rates. Also, the mortgage crisis in the U.S. has raised the risk of a recession that might sap demand for Chinese exports.

Jason Zhou is among the legions of Chinese stock investors who were chastened by the market's roller-coaster performance this year.

Zhou, who works for a foreign trade company in Shanghai, bought shares in oil and gas giant PetroChina just after it listed shares on the Shanghai Stock Exchange in November, paying $5.90 a share.

Normally, such elite state-controlled companies have seen huge, sustained gains after IPOs on domestic bourses. But PetroChina, whose market value according to some methods of calculation briefly surpassed $1 trillion after its local market debut, has fallen back to just above $4.10 per share, still nearly twice its IPO price but down enough to have cost many investors plenty of money.

Zhou cut his losses and sold when the shares fell to about $5.20.

"The loss is not huge, but it's impressive enough," Zhou says. "This was not a pleasant experience."

Neither was the 8.8 percent plunge in the Shanghai index on Feb. 27, which spooked investors around the world and was one of several gut-wrenching drops this year.

Nation

Candidates urge voter turnout in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Uplifting appeals largely replaced stinging insults Tuesday as Democratic and Republican candidates did the only thing left to do in Iowa races that are too close to call—encourage supporters to vote for them.

"The polls look good, but understand this—the polls are not enough. The only thing that counts is whether or not you show up to caucus," Democrat Barack Obama told a fired-up crowd of young and old packed into a high school gymnasium.

Amid murmurs of "Amen!" at a pizza parlor in Sergeant Bluff, Republican Mike Huckabee urged hundreds: "Don't go alone. Take people with you. Fill up your car. Rent a van. Hijack your church's bus, whatever you've got to do to get people to the caucus who are going to vote for me."

Candidates made the pitch repeatedly as they canvassed the state for Thursday's caucuses, the first votes of the presidential nominating process. At least 130,000 Democrats and 80,000 Republicans are expected to participate in 1,781 neighborhood meetings at schools, fire stations and community centers across Iowa on what is forecast to be a clear but cold night.

AP

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill., shakes hands as he enters a campaign stop Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008, in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

New polls show both races competitive, the outcomes extraordinarily unpredictable.

Among Democrats, Obama, an Illinois senator, is fighting with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York for the lead as former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina gives them strong chase. Two former governors, Huckabee of Arkansas and Mitt Romney of Massachusetts, are vying for first on the Republican side.

Whites more likely to get ER narcotics

CHICAGO (AP)—Emergency room doctors are prescribing strong narcotics more often to patients who complain of pain, but minorities are less likely to get them than whites, a new study finds. Even for the severe pain of kidney stones, minorities were prescribed narcotics such as oxycodone and morphine less frequently than whites.

The analysis of more than 150,000 emergency room visits over 13 years found differences in prescribing by race and ethnicity in both urban and rural hospitals, in all U.S. regions and for every type of pain.

"The gaps between whites and nonwhites have not appeared to close at all," said study co-author Dr. Mark Pletcher of the University of California, San Francisco.

The study appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association. Prescribing narcotics for pain in emergency rooms rose during the study, from 23 percent of those complaining of pain in 1993 to 37 percent in 2005.

The increase coincided with changing attitudes among doctors who now regard pain management as a key to healing. Doctors in accredited hospitals must ask patients about pain, just as they monitor vital signs such as temperature and pulse.

Even with the increase, the racial gap endured. Linda Simoni-Wastila of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, School of Pharmacy said the race gap finding may reveal some doctors' suspicions that minority patients could be drug abusers lying about pain to get narcotics.

The irony, she said, is that blacks are the least likely group to abuse prescription drugs. Hispanics are becoming as likely as whites to abuse prescription opioids and stimulants, according to her research. She was not involved in the current study.

The study's authors said doctors may be less likely to see signs of painkiller abuse in white patients, or they may be undertreating pain in minority patients.

Patient behavior may play a role, Pletcher said. Minority patients "may be less likely to keep complaining about their pain or feel they deserve good pain control," he said.

Stricter protocols for prescribing narcotics may help close the gap.

A New York hospital recently studied its emergency patients and found no racial disparity in narcotics prescribed for broken bones. Montefiore Medical Center aggressively treats pain and is developing protocols for painkillers that dictate initial dosages and times to check with patients to see if they need more pain medicine, said Dr. David Esses, emergency department associate director at Montefiore.

Military use of unmanned aircraft soars

WASHINGTON (AP)—The military's reliance on unmanned aircraft that can watch, hunt and sometimes kill insurgents has soared to more than 500,000 hours in the air, largely in Iraq, The Associated Press has learned. And new Defense Department figures obtained by The AP show that the Air Force more than doubled its monthly use of drones between January and October, forcing it to take pilots out of the air and shift them to remote flying duty to meet part of the demand.

The dramatic increase in the development and use of drones across the armed services reflects what will be an even more aggressive effort over the next 25 years, according to the new report.

The jump in Iraq coincided with the build up of U.S. forces this summer as the military swelled its ranks to quell the violence in Baghdad. But Pentagon officials said that even as troops begin to slowly come home this year, the use of Predators, Global Hawks, Shadows and Ravens will not likely slow.

"I think right now the demand for the capability that the unmanned system provides is only increasing," said Army Col. Bob Quackenbush, deputy director for Army Aviation. "Even as the surge ends, I suspect the deployment of the unmanned systems will not go down, particularly for larger systems."

For some Air Force pilots, that means climbing out of the cockpit and heading to places such as Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, where they can remotely fly the Predators, one of the larger and more sophisticated unmanned aircraft.

About 120 Air Force pilots were recently transferred to staff the drones to keep pace with demands, the Air Force said.

Some National Guard members were also called up to staff the flights. And more will be doing that in the coming months, as the Air Force adds bases where pilots can remotely fly the aircraft. Locations include North Dakota, Texas, Arizona and California, and some are already operating.

One key reason for the increase is that U.S. forces in Iraq grew from 15 combat brigades to 20 over the spring and early summer, boosting troop totals from roughly 135,000 to more than 165,000. Slowly over the next six months, five brigades are being pulled out of Iraq that will not be replaced, as part of a drawdown announced by the administration, which began in December.

FBI makes new bid to find 1971 skyjacker

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—The FBI is making a new stab at identifying mysterious skyjacker Dan Cooper, who bailed out of an airliner in 1971 and vanished, releasing new details that it hopes will jog someone's memory. The man calling himself Dan Cooper, also known as D.B. Cooper, boarded a Northwest flight in Portland for a flight to Seattle on the night of Nov, 24, 1971, and commandeered the plane, claiming he had dynamite.

In Seattle, he demanded and got $200,000 and four parachutes and demanded to be flown to Mexico. Somewhere over southwestern Washington, he jumped out the plane's tail exit with two of the chutes.

On Monday, the FBI released drawings that it said probably are close to what Cooper looked like, along with a map of areas where Cooper might have landed.

AP

An artist's sketch released by the FBI of the skyjacker known as 'Dan Cooper' and 'D.B. Cooper', from the recollections of passengers and crew of a Northwest Orient Airlines jet he hijacked between Portland and Seattle, Nov. 24, 1971.

"Who was Cooper? Did he survive the jump? We're providing new information and pictures and asking for your help in solving the case," the FBI said in a statement.

The FBI said that while Cooper was originally thought to have been an experienced jumper, it has since concluded that was wrong and that he almost certainly didn't survive the jump in the dark and rain. He hadn't specified a route for the plane to fly and had no way of knowing where he was when he went out the exit.

"Diving into the wilderness without a plan, without the right equipment, in such terrible conditions, he probably never even got his chute open," Seattle-based agent Larry Carr said.

He also didn't notice that his reserve chute was intended only for training and had been sewn shut.

Several people have claimed to be Cooper over the years but were dismissed on the basis of physical descriptions, parachuting experience and, later, by DNA evidence recovered in 2001 from the cheap tie the skyjacker left on the plane.

In 1980, a boy walking near the Columbia River found $5,800 of the stolen money, in tattered $20 bills.

"Maybe a hydrologist can use the latest technology to trace the $5,800 in ransom money found in 1980 to where Cooper landed upstream," Carr said. "Or maybe someone just remembers that odd uncle."

ACROSS THE NATION

New Year's snowstorm hits Mich. hard

DETROIT (AP)—A fast-moving New Year's Day storm dumped more than a foot of snow on southeastern Michigan, a record blast that made driving hazardous, snarled the flight home for holiday travelers and threatened to do the same in New England. Thousands of people in Michigan and Ohio lost power. Authorities reported no deaths or serious injuries from the six-hour burst of snow in Michigan that started around midnight, but they said there were many spinouts and minor accidents. The storm left 10 to 16 inches of snow across parts of Oakland, Lapeer and St. Clair counties north of Detroit, the National Weather Service said. The western St. Clair County community of Capac reported 16 inches.

Homicides soared in New Orleans in 2007

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The bloodiest city in the country in 2006, reeling from crime in its struggle to recover from Hurricane Katrina, got even worse in 2007. New Orleans registered 209 homicides last year, a nearly 30 percent increase from the 161 recorded in 2006. The FBI's rankings for 2007 will not be out until much later in the year, but New Orleans' population is thought to be 295,450, which would mean a rate of about 71 homicides per 100,000 people. Even the most generous population estimate in 2006 put the number of people in the city that year at 255,000. That meant a real homicide rate of 63.5 per 100,000 residents. To compare that number with some other notoriously bloody cities, the rate for Gary, Ind., was 48.3 and Detroit's was 47.1.

Possible celebratory shooting kills 2

DENVER (AP)—A single bullet that may have been fired in celebration of the new year ripped through the wall of a house shortly after midnight Tuesday, killing an 11-year-old girl and a woman attending a party inside, investigators said. "It might have been an accident, which still would be illegal if someone was firing a weapon recklessly in the city," Police Chief Gerry Whitman said. Investigators believe the weapon was a high-powered rifle, Whitman said. The shot was fired at about 12:20 a.m., and the shooter may have been a New Year's reveler celebrating the New Year, police spokesman Sonny Jackson said.

Asia

Pakistan elections to be delayed a month

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan elections will be delayed by one month following the turmoil sparked by Benazir Bhutto's assassination, despite opposition threats of street protests unless the crucial vote is held Jan. 8 as originally planned, a top official said Tuesday.

A senior Election Commission official told The Associated Press that the commission has agreed on a new date. He indicated it would not be before the second week of February, but refused to disclose the exact schedule before the formal announcement on Wednesday.

The opposition is likely to accuse authorities of postponing the polls to help the ruling party, which is allied to President Pervez Musharraf. Many believe Bhutto's party could get a sympathy boost if the vote takes place on time. Bhutto had accused elements in the ruling party of plotting to kill her, a charge which it vehemently denies.

The killing of Bhutto, a former prime minister, triggered three days of nationwide riots that killed 58 people and caused tens of millions of dollars in damage. Bhutto's home province of Sindh was especially hard hit and the army was called on the streets. Ten election offices were burned.

AP

A Pakistani man lights a candle at a memorial vigil for former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto who was assassinated last week Tuesday Jan. 1, 2008 in Lahore, Pakistan.

"We need at least one month to make arrangements to hold free and fair elections after the damage caused to our offices in the Sindh province," the official said, adding that the commission had already consulted the main political parties about the delay. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to disclose the decision.

In addition to logistical problems arising from the destruction caused by the rioting, he said the caretaker governments of all four provinces of Pakistan had suggested the vote not be held during the holy month of Muharram from Jan. 10 through Feb. 8, because they could not guarantee security. Sectarian violence often breaks out between Pakistan's Shiite and Sunni Muslims.

The polls are seen as crucial to restoring democracy after eight years of military rule and following a six-week state of emergency that Musharraf declared in November.

Opposition groups have demanded the elections proceed on time, and Nawaz Sharif, leader of another opposition party, threatened street protests if they were postponed.

Bhutto's party, certain to win sympathy votes in a quick election, accused Musharraf of wanting a delay to allow anger over her death to evaporate.

"There have been elections in conflict zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan so I find it difficult to understand why this election cannot be held on time," Sherry Rehman, a spokeswoman for Bhutto's party, told Dawn News TV.

Britain and the United States were also eager for the vote to take place as scheduled, but have indicated they would accept a slight delay.

Meanwhile, a top aide of Bhutto revealed that on the day she was killed, the opposition leader was planning to give two U.S. lawmakers a 160-page dossier accusing the government of rigging the elections.

Bhutto was killed Thursday evening in a shooting and bombing attack on her vehicle as she left a campaign rally. She had been scheduled to meet hours later with U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania and U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island.

Sen. Latif Khosa, a lawmaker from Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party, said she had planned to give the lawmakers a report outlining complaints on "pre-poll rigging" by Musharraf's government and the military-run Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate.

Khosa said he did not know if Bhutto's killing was linked to her plans to release the document. Officials at the Information Ministry and the Interior Ministry declined comment. The government has denied charges of vote rigging and said it had nothing to do with Bhutto's death.

The dossier outlined several instances of electoral interference, including one case where an officer from the intelligence services sat nearby as an election official rejected nomination papers from opposition candidates, Khosa said. Another official stopped a candidate from filing his nomination in the southwestern Baluchistan province, said Khosa, who wrote the report as head of the party's election team.

"The elections were to be thoroughly rigged, and the king's party was to benefit in the electoral process," he said, referring to the pro-Musharraf Pakistan Muslim League-Q.

Philippine plane overshoots runway

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A domestic airliner carrying 47 people overshot a runway in the central Philippines Wednesday and struck a concrete fence, damaging the aircraft but causing no injuries, officials said.

Authorities closed the airport in Masbate province after the fuel tank on the YS11 turboprop sprang a leak, the officials said.

Emergency crews helped the 43 passengers and four crew members out of the YS11 turboprop plane, operated by the Philippine airline Asian Spirit, a budget carriers that provides service to remote destinations.

The aircraft had touched down from a regular Manila flight when a strong tail wind apparently pushed it forward, causing it to overshoot the runway, airport manager Josefina Nunez said. Masbate is about 220 miles southeast of Manila.

"The plane's wing missed a row of houses outside the airport by several meters (yards)," Nunez told The Associated Press by telephone.

Officials said the plane's right landing and nose wheels and a wing propeller were damaged as it hit the fence.

After the passengers and crewmembers got off, crews sprayed the plane with chemical foam to prevent the leaking aviation fuel from catching fire, she said.

AP

MANILA BLAZE

Three men try to climb up gutted roofing materials to escape the heat of a fire Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008, in one of Manila's slum areas. A fire of undetermined origin gutted some fifty houses rendering hundreds of people homeless.

Thaksin to generals: Let's play golf

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra says he harbors no ill-will toward the generals who deposed him and, if permitted back in Thailand, would like to invite them to a game of golf and call a truce.

Thaksin

In an interview broadcast Wednesday, Thaksin insisted he has no intention of resuming his career in politics despite his allies victory in Dec. 23 general elections.

"I want to return to Thailand as an ordinary Thai and don't need to have any position or salary," the tycoon-turned-politician said in an interview with channel TITV from Hong Kong, adding that he wants to devote himself to "charity work."

Thaksin, who has been living abroad since the September 2006 coup, dismissed speculation that would seek revenge against the generals who ousted him.

"I would invite them to play golf with me. Then, it will be over," Thaksin said, adding that revenge would solve nothing. "What would I get out of it? I might feel gratified but the country would be damaged."

Coup leaders have said Thaksin is welcome back in Thailand anytime but will have to stand trial for corruption-related charges against him.

Thaksin's popularity remains strong among the rural majority, despite accusations against him of widespread corruption and abuse of power. Thaksin was prime minister for six years.

The People's Power Party, comprised of Thaksin's allies, came out on top in the country's first elections since the coup, winning 233 seats in parliament's 480-seat lower house.

The PPP announced Monday it had formed an alliance with three small political parties to form a coalition government with 254 seats in parliament.

The final numbers could change when the Election Commission announces results Thursday from a probe into election violations.

Campaign eases New Year injuries in RP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Firecracker blast injuries dropped considerably during New Year's revelry in the Philippines after a government scare campaign advertised the long surgical saw and pliers used in amputations on victims, the health secretary said.

The number of Filipinos injured by firecrackers and celebratory gunfire in end-of-year celebrations dropped by nearly half to 446—the lowest in eight years—compared to 2006, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said Tuesday.

"Filipinos chose to be safer this year," Duque told a news conference. "The effective strategy was showing the public the incontrovertible horror of losing their limbs and possibly their lives."

More than half of the 446 injuries happened on New Year's Eve and included seven cases caused by celebratory firing of guns—a practice banned by police. The toll covers the last 10 days of 2007. A drunken man died after he swallowed a highly toxic firecracker in a Manila slum, officials said.

Many Filipinos, largely influenced by Chinese tradition, believe that noisy New Year's celebrations drive away evil and misfortune, and the staccato blasts of powerful firecrackers could be heard all over Manila and other cities on Monday night and early Tuesday morning.

But firecracker explosions were noticeably shorter than in previous years.

As part of the government campaign, Duque last week showed the media a father and his son who lost their arms to a powerful firecracker blast in Manila.

He also showed a long surgical saw, pliers and a syringe with a five-inch needle used to amputate the limbs of firecracker blast victims.

World

Kenya church torched, 50 reported killed

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—A mob torched a church where hundreds had sought refuge Tuesday, and witnesses said dozens of people—including children—were burned alive or hacked to death with machetes in ethnic violence that followed Kenya's disputed election.

The killing of up to 50 ethnic Kikuyus in the Rift Valley city of Eldoret brought the death toll from four days of rioting to more than 275, raising fears of further unrest in what has been one of Africa's most stable democracies.

The latest violence recalled scenes from the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, when more than a half-million people were killed. The question facing Kenya is whether the politicians will lose control of the mobs, triggering a civil war.

President Mwai Kibaki, who was swiftly inaugurated for a second term Sunday after a vote that critics said was rigged, called for a meeting with his political opponents—a significant softening of tone for a man who rarely speaks to the press and who vowed to crack down on rioters.

But opposition candidate Raila Odinga refused, saying he would meet Kibaki only "if he announces that he was not elected." Odinga accused the government of stoking the chaos, telling The Associated Press in an interview that Kibaki's administration "is guilty, directly, of genocide."

The violence—from the shantytowns of Nairobi to resort towns on the sweltering coast—has exposed long-festering tribal resentment.

The people killed in Eldoret, about 185 miles northwest of Nairobi, were members of Kibaki's Kikuyu tribe.

They had fled to the Assemblies of God Church on Monday night, seeking refuge after mobs torched homes. Video from a helicopter chartered by the Red Cross showed many homes in flames and the horizon obscured by smoke. Groups of people were seen seeking sanctuary at schools and the airport, while others moved into the forest.

On Tuesday morning, a mob of about 2,000 arrived at the church, said George Karanja, whose family had sought refuge there.

"They started burning the church," Karanja told the AP in a telephone interview, his voice catching with emotion as he described the scene. "The mattresses that people were sleeping on caught fire. There was a stampede, and people fell on one another."

Karanja, 37, helped pull out at least 10 people, but added, "I could not manage to pull out my sister's son. He was screaming 'Uncle, uncle!' ... He died." The boy was 11.

Up to 50 people were killed in the attack, said a Red Cross official who spoke on condition of anonymity because her name would identify her tribe, and she feared reprisal. Even first aid workers were stopped by vigilantes who demanded their identity. Numerous blockades along the road to Eldoret increased the dangers of traveling.

AP

Buildings burn in the Kenyan town of Eldoret in this image taken from TV supplied by the International Committee of the Red Cross Tuesday Jan. 1, 2008.

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide attacker killed at least 32 men gathered in eastern Baghdad Tuesday to mourn the death of a retired Iraqi army officer, a Shiite who was slain last week in a car bombing blamed on al-Qaida in Iraq.

The attack was a reminder of the dangers that persist despite Baghdad's recent decline in violence and of the peril for any mass gathering in a country where the bereaved often find themselves targets.

In a New Year's message from London, where he flew last week for what his office described as routine medical tests, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said that "we witnessed sorrow and pain in 2007, but with the effort and brotherhood of Iraqis as well their insistence to wake up, the year ended with victories and successes."

He added that he hoped 2008 will "further boost national unity and cooperation" among Iraq's political parties, sects and ethnic groups.

The government, which has sought to reconcile Iraq's often warring Shiites and Sunnis, took a tiny step toward national reconciliation by sending a draft amnesty bill to the parliament speaker Tuesday. But the bill drafted by the Shiite-dominated government falls far short of Sunni demands. It covers less than a quarter of those held in Iraqi prisons, and none of those held by the American military.

Government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said the draft bill would also exclude those imprisoned for a variety of crimes ranging from terrorism, kidnapping and rape to antiquities smuggling, adultery and homosexuality. It also excludes senior figures of the former Baath regime.

If passed in its current form, the bill could see some 5,000 prisoners released, al-Dabbagh said. The Iraqi government has about 20,000 people in custody, while the U.S. military holds about 25,000.

Sunni parliamentarians have criticized the bill for its limited scope. They have argued that most prisoners are charged with terrorist crimes, rendering it ineffective. Some also fear referring the bill to Iraq's gridlocked parliament will actually delay prisoner releases.

American diplomat killed in Sudan

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—An American diplomat was shot and killed early Tuesday by gunmen in a passing car who cut him off as he was being driven home in Sudan's capital. Sudanese officials insisted it was not a terrorist attack but the U.S. embassy said it was too soon to determine the motive. The diplomat's Sudanese driver was also killed in the shooting.

The Sudanese government often drums up anti-Western sentiment in the media. But attacks on foreigners are rare in Khartoum, where an American diplomat was last killed in 1973.

John Granville, 33, was an official for the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID and Granville's family said. He working to implement a 2005 peace agreement between Sudan's north and south that ended more than two decades of civil war, USAID said.

Granville was being driven home at about 4 a.m. when another vehicle cut off his car and opened fire before fleeing the scene, the Sudanese Interior Ministry said.

The diplomat's driver, Abdel-Rahman Abbas, was killed. Granville initially survived the attack with five gunshot wounds to the hand, shoulder and stomach. He died after surgery, said Walter Braunohler, the public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum.

USAID Administrator Henrietta H. Fore said the two men killed "were serving the common interests of the U.S. and the Sudan in bringing peace and stability to a country that has long been wracked by violence and conflict."

The agency did not release other information about the shootings or the victims.

Granville's family in Buffalo, N.Y. said the diplomat was committed to his work in Africa.

"John's life was a celebration of love, hope and peace," a family statement said. "He will be missed by many people throughout the world whose lives were touched and made better because of his care."

Buffalo-area congressman, Rep. Brian Higgins, said Granville knew his work put his life in danger.

"He told his mom several times ... that it's dangerous, what he's doing, but he wouldn't want to be doing anything else," said Higgins, who spoke with Granville's mother, Jane Granville, after her son's death.

Sudan's Foreign Ministry said the incident was "isolated and has no political or ideological connotations" and pledged to bring the culprits to justice, according to state news agency SUNA.

The Sudan Media Center, which has close links to the government, cited an unidentified government official as saying the attack was criminally motivated and that there was "no grain of suspicion of an organized terrorist action."

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's network of roadblocks will remain in place across the West Bank, the defense minister said Tuesday, sparking an outcry from Palestinians who say they cannot rebuild their economy until people and goods move freely.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak's comments soured an already tense atmosphere between Israel and the Palestinians just days before President Bush's first visit to the region as U.S. president. Israeli construction in east Jerusalem and the West Bank and violence between Israelis and Palestinians—and among Palestinians themselves—threaten to overwhelm Bush's peace efforts.

In a newspaper interview ahead of the visit, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said for their own good, Israelis must consider giving up much of the West Bank and part of Jerusalem to the Palestinians.

Jan. 1 is the day Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement celebrates its anniversary, but in Gaza, Hamas rulers banned fireworks and marches—setting off clashes that killed eight people and wounded more than 60. It was the worst outbreak of infighting since Nov. 11, when Hamas forces opened fire at a huge Fatah rally, killing eight.

Environment

CNMI Organization for Conservation Outreach

The Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps of the Rota High School chose the Talakhaya Revegetation Project as their annual service learning venue for the second year.

An enthusiastic and motivated group of 35 students planted over 1,000 bahia grass seedlings on Dec. 14. Prior to the service learning event, students researched the project and the effects of soil erosion to the coral reef. They performed skits, songs and created posters to demonstrate the applicability of the service learning and acquired background knowledge.

Talakhaya Revegetation Project is a Coral Reef Initiative Local Action Strategy sponsored by the U.S. National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rota's JROTC cadets engage their battalion for the second annual Talakhaya Service Learning Project.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
JROTC cadets plant over 1,000 seedlings on Dec. 13. This squad won the competition by planting over 600 seedlings.

The watershed is listed as a Category I Watershed in the CNMI's Unified Watershed Assessment, which means that it is in need of restoration since it does not meet, or is facing imminent threat of not meeting, clean water and other natural resource goals. A multi agency steering committee, the Luta Watershed Committee spearheaded the land based pollution reduction project, active since Jan 2006. The committee consists of the Rota branches of DEQ, DLNR, DFW, DPS, DPW, PSS, MOR, CREES and NRCS.

The most important watershed in Rota, Talakhaya contains the water cave that supplies Rota's freshwater to its 3,000 residents. For decades, this watershed has suffered from wildfires intentionally set by hunters to attract the Sambar deer. The fires remove vegetation, destroy habitat, and cause significant soil erosion and slumping, particularly during the rainy season. During storm events, runoff is rapid and soil erosion severe, leading to considerable sedimentation of the adjacent marine environment and freshwater water streams. Baseline studies conducted by the CNMI's Marine Monitoring Team over the last four years show that turf algae, which grow rapidly in response to nutrient addition associated with upland sedimentation, have begun to dominate the nearshore coral reef community, smothering corals and driving away fish and other marine life.

Sincere thanks to the Rota public school system for their outstanding modeling of environmental stewardship and support for experiential, placed-based education opportunities throughout the duration of the project.

Sinapalo Elementary and Rota Junior High are preparing for a science fair sponsored by the Talakhaya Revegetation Project, themed: Watersheds: Protecting our Land and Sea. To launch the science fair, the 210 participating 4th through 8th graders were visited by DLNR Forestry staff, Felix Calvo and project coordinator, Lihla Noori. Sparking the student's curiosity of watersheds and promoting topic idea generation, Calvo and Noori presented the importance of watersheds, the connection between human activity on land and coral reef health, wildfire effects to the coral ecosystem, and a "hand on" soil erosion demonstration.

Fulfilling PSS benchmarks as the third quarter integrated project, students will be creating watershed projects January through March 2008. The categories will be Earth Science, Life Science and Physical Science. Ten prizes will be awarded per grade, including 1st through 3rd placement in each category and one overall prize per grade. The Talakhaya Watershed Science Fair will be on March 18, 2007 at the Sinapalo Elementary School Cafeteria.

For more information on how you or your agency can "Help Luta Save our Soil Save our Reef", contact the project coordinator at 532-3102, lihla.noori@gmail.com. ***(CoCo)***

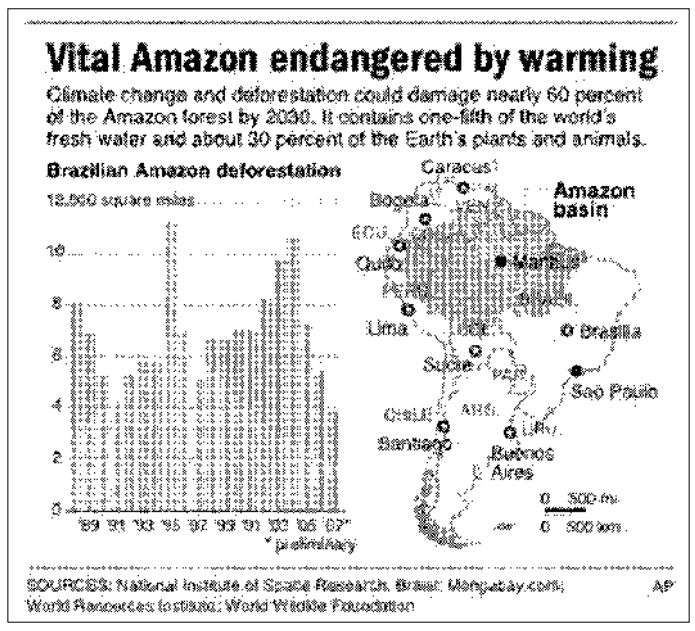
Recycle it, don't trash it!

From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, household waste increases by more than 25 percent. Added food waste, shopping bags, packaging, wrapping paper, bows and ribbons—it all adds up to an additional 1 million tons a week to our landfills.

Most of the waste generated can be diverted from the landfill to recycling centers. Paper—greeting cards, wrapping paper, cardboard boxes, shirt boxes, tissue wrapping, the list goes on. How about food or drink containers? Yes, we can also recycle cleaned glass or plastic bottles, soda or beer cans, tin cans, etc.

Instead of trashing these holiday wastes, recycle it by donating it to a school of your choice! All Saipan schools are participating in the CNMI Recycles Day contest.

For more information about the ongoing CNMI recycles Day contest, contact Reina Camacho at 664-8500, reina-camacho@deq.gov.mp or Tars Fitial at 322-2745, recycle@pticom.com or Angelo Villagomez at 285-MINA. ***(CoCo)***



Life & Style

Thousands jam sidewalks to watch Rose Parade

By SOLVEJ SCHOU
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PASADENA, California (AP) —A giant blossoming rose, a pickup truck that morphed into a spacecraft, and a Chinese dragon undulating in the breeze brought cheers from thousands of spectators as those floats and others rolled by in the Rose Parade. But this year's event also included protests against the 2008 Beijing Olympics and President George W. Bush.

Those who spent New Year's Eve camped curbside were joined at dawn by giddy visitors arriving by car, bus and train. The city estimates more than a million people visit Pasadena during the parade and Rose Bowl game festivities.

Gail Paulson was drawn to the parade route, although she is blind.

"There's a lot a blind person can appreciate at this parade. There's electricity in the air, the smell of the flowers, the clomping of the horses," Paulson, 64, of Oxnard, California, said as her guide dog, Alton, led her to a seat.

Tournament Special Trophy for exceptional merit in multiple categories including floats over 55 feet shown here is FTD's "The Magic of Mardi Gras" parading along Colorado Blvd. during the Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif. on Tuesday Jan.1, 2008. AP

The 119th edition of the Tournament of Roses began as sunshine bathed the 5.5-mile (8.85-kilometer) parade route. This year's theme was "Passport to the World's Celebrations."

One of the biggest crowd pleasers was American Honda's "Passport to the Future." It featured a pickup truck that changed in a cloud of smoke into a spaceship.

"It was awesome—what it looked like after it transformed. It looked like it was a rocket ship," said Noah Herndon, 10, from Glendale.

Some 1,200 law enforcement officers were assigned to the parade to deal with any disruptions. Twenty-three people were arrested, many during the night for drunk-in-public violations, police said.

Two groups were protesting at the parade. Dozens of war protesters led by "Peace Mom" Cindy Sheehan, whose son was killed in Iraq, staked out spots across from television cameras, hoisting signs reading "Impeachment is Patriotic." The protesters were booed by parade watchers sitting in the grandstand.

"This is not the occasion for this," said Mary Feichtel, 63, of Florida.

One protester was arrested for holding up a sign and obstructing others' view of the parade, Pasadena Police Department Lt. Keith Jones said.

After the parade finished, a group of more than 100 war protesters marched down the route. Sheehan spoke to a gathering of protesters at Pasadena City Hall.

"We are all here for accountability," Sheehan said. "You didn't ruin anybody's parade, they got to see the truth."

Members of the Chinese Falun Gong spiritual movement protested a float honoring the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Demonstrators wanted people to turn their backs on the float as it rolled along the route, though few appeared to join in the protest.

"I don't know enough about it to turn my back," said Marcia Thoop, 55, of Arcadia, California, as she watched the float, adorned with Olympic mascots and flanked by plate-twirling acrobats, drive by.

Death & Funeral Announcement

†Maria Concepcion T. Sablan (Connie)

Date of Birth: August 27, 1944
Died: December 29, 2007

In her new life, she now joins her:
Father: Oswald C. Sablan (Osbad)
Mother: Josefa T. Sablan
Son: Juan S. Crisostomo
Sister/Spouse: Rita S. & Augustin I. Taitano

She was survived by her:
Children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren:
Conrad S. Crisostomo/Regina A. Cabrera
(Robert/April (Nikki & Noah), Raylene & Jolene)
Joseph/Faustina Crisostomo
(Maria, Josepha, Caitlyn, Joseph II, & Christopher)
Catherine S. Crisostomo
(Christine/Dave (Tyriq), Cleo/Joey (Ignaisha, Joey Jun) & Ambros)
Franklin S. Crisostomo
Robert/Elaine Crisostomo
(Robert Jr., Conilia & Roberta)
Carolyn S. Crisostomo/Mike (Conisha)
Jesse Sablan (Jesse Keoni)

Brothers, Sisters & Spouses:
Nieves/Jesus Villagomez
Remedio/Antonio Camacho
Jesus/Dolores Sablan
Jose/Debbie Sablan
Ramon/Frances Sablan
Rosa/Abraham Quitugua

Daily Mass at 6:00 a.m. and Holy Rosary at 7:00 p.m. are being offered at Kristo Rai Church. Last respect will be held on Monday, January 7, 2008 at Kristo Rai Church at 10:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 1:00 p.m. followed by interment at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated.

From the Family

Thai princess, elder sister of Thai king, dies

By GRANT PECK
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Princess Galyani Vadhana, the elder sister of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, died Wednesday, the royal palace announced. She was 84 years old.

Galyani's passing came after the 80-year-old king himself recovered from the symptoms of a stroke after being hospitalized for three weeks in October. Both were tended to at Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital.

Galyani had been hospitalized since June, after doctors found she had abdominal cancer. In a statement issued hours before her passing, the palace said Galyani's kidneys were not functioning and her breathing had weakened.

The late princess was noted for her interest in the arts, especially theater and classical music, a taste cultivated when she, like the king, was educated in Switzerland, where she spent much time until later life.

She spoke five languages, and loved to travel, documenting many of her journeys in books.

AP
A Thai woman cries while holding a picture of Princess Galyani Vadhana at Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok on Wednesday Jan. 2, 2008.

Known to be modest and self-effacing, she told an interviewer in 2000 that: "I don't like gala dinners. They're boring."

Galyani was the oldest child of Prince Mahidol—a son of King Chulalongkorn—and his commoner wife, Sangwal. All three of their children were born abroad, where Prince Mahidol traveled and studied medicine.

Galyani was born in London on May 6, 1923.

The family's early life was difficult, with Prince Mahidol dying in 1929, leaving his wife to raise the three children alone. After Thailand's absolute monarchy was abolished following a 1932 coup d'etat, Sangwal and her children moved to Switzerland to be away from the maelstrom of politics.

In 1935, Galyani's other brother, Ananda, was named king, though he was to spend most of the next decade, including World War 2, in neutral Switzerland.

"We were in a small country and we were just monsieur, mademoiselle, not prince or princess," she recalled in 2000. "Some people did not know we were a royal family. We were like Swiss children and we knew a simple life of ordinary people."

Tragedy struck the family again, when Ananda, back on a visit to Thailand in 1946, was found shot dead in his bedroom in the Grand Palace under circumstances that have never been cleared up. Bhumibol succeeded him as king, and now is the world's longest reigning monarch.

Republican presidential hopeful former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, right, plays bass as a member of the Boogiewoogers band shoots a photo at a rally in Des Moines, Iowa, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008. AP

Huckabee opts for Leno on caucus eve

SERGEANT BLUFF, Iowa (AP)—On the eve of the Iowa caucuses, Republican presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee will trade jokes with Jay Leno on NBC's "Tonight Show." While his rivals will be making a final appeal to the state's voters, Huckabee will be flying to Los Angeles to tape the show with Leno, who returns to the air Wednesday without striking writers.

"It's just an incredible opportunity to be there, particularly the very first night he's back from the writer's strike," Huckabee said. "Besides, if all else fails and this whole process doesn't work out, maybe he needs a sidekick and I'll be auditioning tomorrow."

A similar late-night appearance backfired on rival Fred Thompson, the actor-politician who irked voters in New Hampshire by skipping a Republican debate last fall at the University of New Hampshire to announce his candidacy on Leno's show.

The unconventional move is somewhat fitting for Huckabee who broke with tradition on Monday, eschewing campaigning to go for a run and get a shave and haircut in front of his media entourage. He also held an odd news conference in which he announced he had decided against going negative with a critical TV ad against Republican Mitt Romney—and then played the ad for the media.

Huckabee and Romney are in a close race in Iowa.

Huckabee was back out campaigning Tuesday, flying early on New Year's Day to Sergeant Bluff, where he urged about 200 people at the Pizza Ranch restaurant to turn out for Thursday's caucuses.

"I want you to go with a commitment, in essence a fervent spirit, that says I will not only go no matter what the weather, I will take people with me to vote for Mike Huckabee," he said.

He said he hopes the decision not to air his negative ad was the right one.

"We'll find out," Huckabee said. "I know a lot of people are cynical and think we pulled a stunt yesterday. I just decided if that's what it takes to get elected, that's a lousy way to run a country."

In Sergeant Bluff, Huckabee supporter Bob Dunker said he didn't mind that Huckabee was heading to California.

"I'm thinking it's OK for him to get national exposure, because when you don't have money, I think you need to tell your story to America any way you can," Dunker said. "Hey, when he can be here at 9 o'clock on New Year's Day talking to us, he can go wherever he wants tomorrow. I'm sure he'll be back in Iowa Thursday."

James Brown's children challenge will

AIKEN, S.C. (AP)—Five of James Brown's children say their late father's will should be invalidated because his former advisers used undue influence to get him to create charitable trusts that the advisers would profit from, according to court documents filed this week.

The children were largely left out of the financial portion of the will, which leaves the bulk of the soul singer's money to trusts set up to educate Brown's grandchildren and needy kids.

Atlanta attorney Louis Levenson said the children discovered earlier wills drafted by their father that cast doubt on whether he truly wanted to leave his estate to charity.

"There was sporadic indication that Mr. Brown intended to benefit some charities, but the circumstances surrounding the making of these documents have always been clouded in mystery," Levenson said.

Five Brown children are challenging the will in Aiken County Probate Court. They claim Brown's longtime advisers Buddy Dallas, Alford Bradley and David Cannon convinced the soul singer to create the trusts so the advisers would profit from managing the two charities after Brown died.

Dallas denied the allegations and called attempts to void the will "an act of desperation."

"No one told James Brown what to do," Dallas said, adding that if he were going to use his influence to benefit himself, "I would have just influenced him into giving me something."

The Brown children challenging the will are Deanna Brown Thomas, Venisha Brown, Daryl Brown, Yamma Brown Lumar and Larry Brown. A sixth child named in Brown's will, Terry Brown, has hired a different attorney.

One grandchild whose tuition would be paid for by the trusts has accused his relatives of trying to break the charities to get the money.

Most of Brown's estate, including his Beech Island home and rights to his image, name and music, would go to the James Brown "I Feel Good" Trust for the education of needy children in South Carolina and Georgia, as well as to a family trust to educate his grandchildren younger than 35.

Brown died on Christmas Day 2006 of heart failure. He was 73.

Just how much money is involved in Brown's estate is unclear. In October, Forbes reported Brown made an estimated $5 million in 2005 alone. But attorneys have said Brown's accounts do not have the money they expected.

Year's Top Quotes: 'Don't Tase me, Bro'

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—It was the plea heard round the world.

"Don't tase me, bro"—shouted by a Florida college student as officers removed him from a speech by Sen. John Kerry—tops this year's list of most memorable quotes, compiled by the editor of the Yale Book of Quotations.

Second on the list is a quote from Lauren Upton, the Miss Teen America contestant who gave a confused and mangled response to a question about why one-fifth of Americans can't locate the U.S. on a map.

"I personally believe that U.S. Americans are unable to do so because some people out there in our nation don't have maps and I believe that our education like such as in South Africa and Iraq and everywhere like such as and I believe that they should our education over here in the U.S. should help the U.S. or should help South Africa and should help Iraq and the Asian countries so we will be able to build up our future for us," Upton said.

The words of both young people were immortalized in videos posted on YouTube, the video-sharing Web site.

"These new media are spreading these things," said editor Fred R. Shapiro, 53, associate librarian and lecturer in legal research at the Yale Law School. "I'm not listing the most admirable quotes, the most eloquent quotes. It's the most memorable quotes."

President Bush dominated last year's list with quotes about the Iraq war, but this year he didn't break into the top 10.

That doesn't mean politicians didn't say anything memorable this year.

Third on the list is Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's comment at Columbia University in New York: "In Iran we don't have homosexuals like in your country."

Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, took eighth place with "(I have) a wide stance when going to the bathroom," his explanation for his foot touching the foot of an undercover police officer in an airport men's room.

Shapiro released his Yale Book of Quotations last year after six years of research. It contains about 13,000 quotes, each extensively researched to verify its origin.

He expects to add roughly 1,000 more quotes—mostly modern—for the next edition in about five years, and in the meantime he plans to keep issuing annual top 10 lists.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$4.75 Bargain Matinees-All Shows Before 6PM
$4.00 All Day Admission For Seniors & Kids
$5.00 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.00 Military with valid ID

THRIFTY TUESDAYS $4.75 ADMISSION ALL DAY TUESDAYS EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS FOR FILMS WITH A (T)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

For Friday December 28 through Thursday January 3 only!

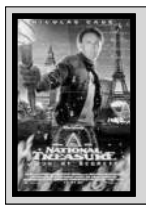
★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep

Friday		4:20	7:30	9:50
Sat and Sun	1:15	4:20	7:30	9:50
Monday		4:20	7:30	9:50
Tueday	1:15	4:20	7:30	9:50
Wed and Thurs		4:20	7:30	9:50

Emily Watson, Ben Chaplin
Family, Adventure • Rated PG

Synopsis
When Angus, a young Scottish boy, finds an enchanted egg, he takes it home and soon finds himself face-to-face with an amazing creature: the mythical "water horse" of Scottish lore. Angus begins a journey of discovery, facing his greatest fears and risking his life to protect a secret that would give birth to a legend.



National Treasure: Book of Secrets

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Sat and Sun	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Monday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Tueday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Wed and Thurs		4:00	7:00	9:45

Nicolas Cage, Diane Kruger
Action, Adventure • Rated PG

Synopsis
When a missing page from the diary of John Wilkes Booth surfaces, Ben's great-great grandfather is suddenly implicated as a key conspirator in Abraham Lincoln's death. Determined to prove his ancestor's innocence, Ben follows an international chain of clues that takes him on a chase from Paris to London and ultimately back to America. This journey leads Ben and his crew not only to surprising revelations—but to the trail of the world's most treasured secrets.

Charlie Wilson's War

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:30
Sat and Sun	1:20	4:10	7:15	9:30
Monday		4:10	7:15	9:30
Tueday	1:20	4:10	7:15	9:30
Wed and Thurs		4:10	7:15	9:30

Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts
Comedy, Biopic • Rated R

Synopsis
Charlie Wilson was a bachelor congressman from Texas who had a habit of showing up in hot tubs with strippers and cocaine. His "Good Time Charlie" exterior, however, masked an extraordinary mind, a deep sense of patriotism and a passion for the underdog, and in the early 1980s the underdog was Afghanistan—which had just been brutally invaded by the Russians. Charlie's longtime friend and patron and sometime lover was Joanne Herring, one of the wealthiest women in Texas and a virulent anti-communist.

Walk Hard: Dewey Cox Story

Friday		4:25	7:05	9:55
Sat and Sun	1:25	4:25	7:05	9:55
Monday		4:25	7:05	9:55
Tueday	1:25	4:25	7:05	9:55
Wed and Thurs		4:25	7:05	9:55

John C. Reilly, Jenna Fischer
Comedy, Music • Rated R

P.S. I Love You

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:40
Sat and Sun	1:30	4:30	7:25	9:40
Monday		4:30	7:25	9:40
Tueday	1:30	4:30	7:25	9:40
Wed and Thurs		4:30	7:25	9:40

Hilary Swank, Gerald Butler
Drama, Adaptation • Rated PG13

★ ★ ★

I Am Legend

Friday		4:15	7:20	10:00
Sat and Sun	1:10	4:15	7:20	10:00
Monday		4:15	7:20	10:00
Tueday	1:10	4:15	7:20	10:00
Wed and Thurs		4:15	7:20	10:00

Will Smith, Alice Braga
Action, Sci-Fi, Adventure • Rated PG13

Alvin & The Chipmunks

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Sat and Sun	1:05	4:05	7:10	9:35
Monday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Tueday	1:05	4:05	7:10	9:35
Wed and Thurs		4:05	7:10	9:35

Jason Lee, Cameron Richardson
Comedy, Family • Rated PG

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPERSAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Lesson in physics convinces woman to always buckle up

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: May I please respond to the letter you printed on Oct. 29 from the seventh-grader whose stepmother refuses to wear a seat belt? I, too, was careless about using my belt when shoulder-strap seat belts were first available.

At the time, I worked for an insurance company, and one of the claims adjusters pointed out that when a car is going 55 miles per hour, the passengers are also going 55 miles per hour, and if "something" should suddenly stop the car, you are STILL going 55 miles per hour until the point of impact. Needless to say, I never failed to wear my seat belt after that.

LORI IN ARNOLD, CALIF.

DEAR LORI: Thank you for the reminder. I hope the letters I am printing today will be a wake-up call to the careless and the stubborn. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: As a retired chief deputy coroner for Madison County, Indiana, it was my duty to investigate automobile fatalities. The No. 1 contributing cause of automobile deaths was and still is the deadly head-on collision. When two cars traveling 45 miles an hour are involved in a head-on collision, their total speed at impact is equal to 90 miles per hour. The victim is either thrown through the windshield or free of the car and killed instantly when the automobile crushes him.

Head-on collisions happen without warning: Another car crosses the median or center line, a tire blows out, someone was driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The reason for buckling a seat belt is to prevent making contact with the windshield and to keep the passenger inside the vehicle. When this is done, your chances of survival are far greater if you're involved in a head-on auto accident.

DONALD G. McGRANAHAN, VERO BEACH, FLA.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I didn't buckle up either, until about 14 years ago. It took being in a serious car accident to convince me to always buckle up.

My injuries were numerous, including 90 stitches in my face. I have the scars as a daily reminder. To this day, I still have eye problems because my eyeball was pushed back upon impact. I had a fractured skull and a closed head injury, but fortunately, no permanent damage there. But I spent three weeks flat on my back.

How humbling it was to be carried to the tub to be bathed, and to be slid off the sofa and onto a bucket to go to the bathroom. I was not able to work for three months.

I admire that seventh-grader who wrote about his concern for his stepmother. As a stepmom myself, I would happily and cheerfully comply with a request to buckle my seat belt and count my blessings.

LEARNED MY LESSON IN PENNSYLVANIA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My accident happened when cars were built like Sherman tanks, and seat belts were not required by law. I was seated next to my husband, who was driving.

We were hit head-on by a drunk driver. I broke the windshield with my face, and I was stuck in it by a shard of glass up under my chin. Both my legs and hips were broken in numerous places from the impact and the seat being thrown forward, and I have required numerous surgeries since. If you think my experience will serve as a warning to others, please print it.

MARJORIE H.

DEAR MARJORIE H.: Here's your letter. Now let's cross our fingers.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

SF Mayor Newsom engaged to actress

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—It looks as if San Francisco is about to lose its most eligible bachelor. Mayor Gavin Newsom, 40, proposed to his girlfriend, actress Jennifer Siebel, 33, while they vacationed over the weekend in Hawaii, and she accepted, said Stanlee Gatti, a friend of the couple who spoke with the mayor after he proposed.

A date has not been set, Gatti said.

It would be the first marriage for Siebel, 33, and the second for Newsom, whose four-year marriage to Kimberly Guilfoyle ended in divorce in March 2006.

The two were introduced by mutual friends in October 2006. Siebel, who lives in Los Angeles, stood by Newsom after he publicly admitted in February that he had a drinking problem and had had an affair with a former staff member's wife.

Siebel has a recurring guest spot on the NBC police drama "Life." She also appears in the 2007 film "In the Valley of Elah," starring Tommy Lee Jones and Charlize Theron.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom smiles as he campaigns in San Francisco in this Nov. 6, 2007 file photo.

AP

'Without a Trace' star Sanchez engaged

AP

Actors Eric Winter and Roselyn Sanchez arrive at a fundraising party, to benefit the EB Medical Research Foundation, on the Santa Monica, Calif., Pier in a Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007 file photo.

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Roselyn Sanchez and fellow actor Eric Winter got engaged during a holiday vacation on the island of Vieques, just east of mainland Puerto Rico, according to a statement released Tuesday.

The couple, who have been dating for two years, will talk about a date and location for their nuptials once they return to Los Angeles, according to Brenda Rodriguez, Sanchez's publicist in Puerto Rico.

Sanchez appears in the CBS series "Without a Trace" and produced the 2007 movie "Yellow." Winter has appeared in a variety of TV shows, including "Days of Our Lives."

Bosley still acting up a storm at 80

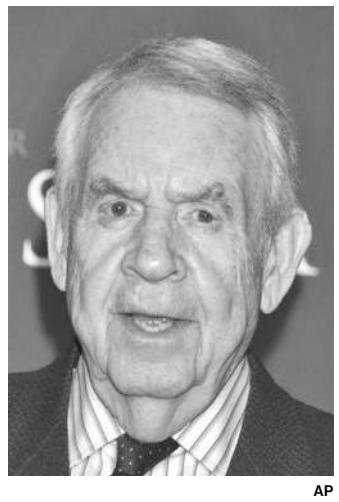
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tom Bosley wants to show he still has it at 80. Last year, the actor best known for playing Richie Cunningham's father on "Happy Days" co-starred with Michael Learned in a seven-month national tour of "On Golden Pond."

Now he's starting off the new year with a starring role in the TV movie "Charlie & Me," airing Saturday on the Hallmark Channel.

Bosley plays a charismatic grandfather who, despite suffering a near-fatal heart attack, is determined to mend the relationship between his workaholic, widowed son and his feisty 12-year-old granddaughter before he dies.

"Although I love my home, my family and everything about my non-work life, I also want to keep acting as long as God will let me," said Bosley, who played Father Frank Dowling on "Father Dowling Mysteries."

"It's what still drives me," he said in a statement issued to the cable channel. "I want to prove to myself that I can still do it."



AP

Tom Bosley arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of Memoirs of a Geisha held at the Kodak Theatre in this Dec. 4, 2005, file photo, in Hollywood, Ca.

Web site reuniting gloves makes matches

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Jennifer Gooch's mission was to create a simple Web site where people could go to find their lost gloves. Even if no happy reunions ever took place, she was just content to spread a little goodwill.

But just a month since http://www.onecoldhand.com went live, the Carnegie Mellon University art student is busier than ever. She's reunited four gloves with their owners, is working on similar sites for cities around the globe, and is planning a book to showcase her found gloves.

The first glove match was made about a week ago, when a CMU intern from Germany heard about the site and checked it out for her missing beige glove. She found it on the page, under the description "woman's leather glove with bling."

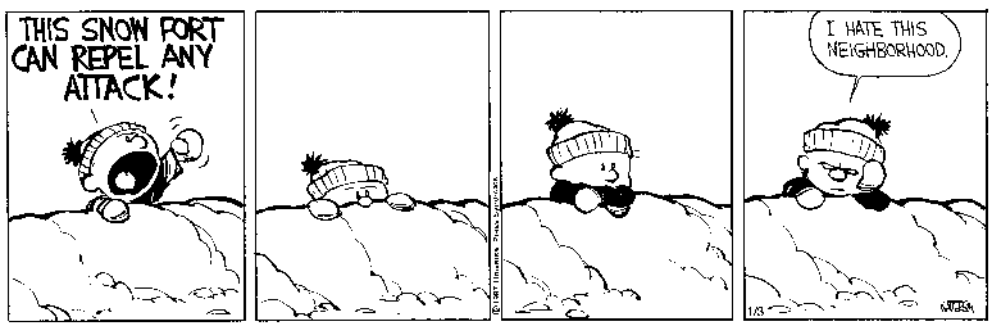
Sarah Altmeyer said she bought the gloves a few years ago in Germany, but later lost one at Carnegie Mellon's Simon-Newell Hall. She heard about the Web site Gooch created and thought she'd check it out.

Much to her joy, she found the missing glove there. "It was a very popular glove. I was actually kind of happy it was our first reunion," Gooch said.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

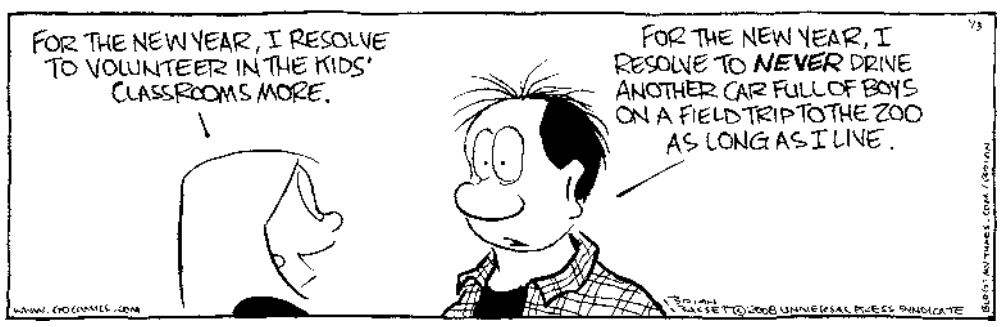


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

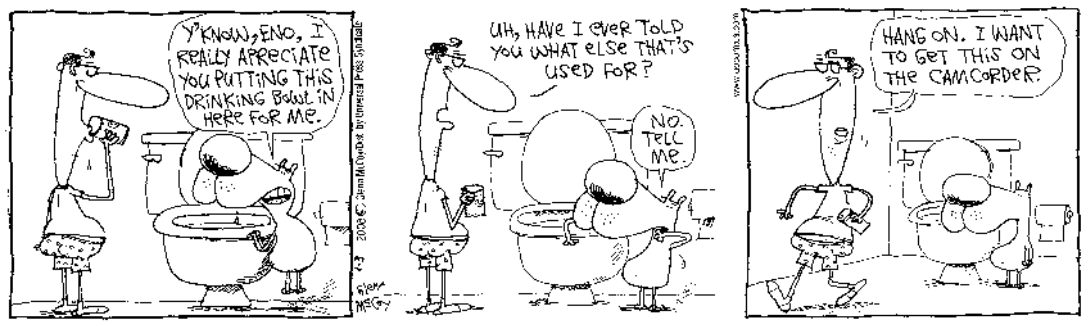
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


FOR THE NEW YEAR, I RESOLVE TO VOLUNTEER IN THE KIDS' CLASSROOMS MORE.
FOR THE NEW YEAR, I RESOLVE TO NEVER DRIVE ANOTHER CAR FULL OF BOYS ON A FIELD TRIP TO THE ZOO AS LONG AS I LIVE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


Y'KNOW, ENO, I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU PUTTING THIS DRINKING BOUT IN HERE FOR ME.
UH, HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU WHAT ELSE THAT'S USED FOR?
NO. TELL ME.
HANG ON. I WANT TO GET THIS ON THE CAMCORDER.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

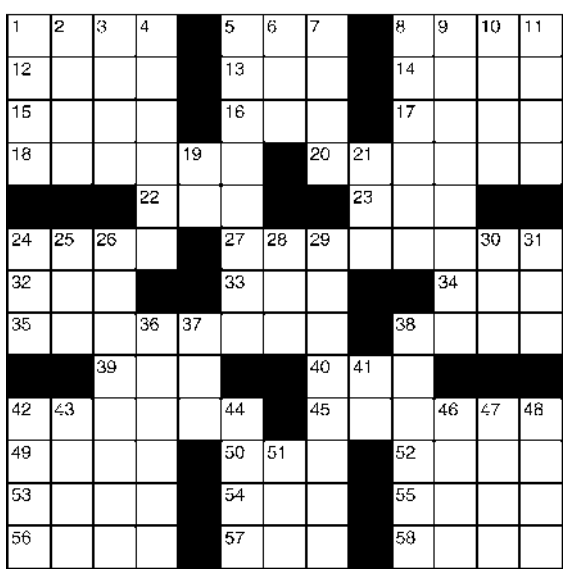
ACROSS
1 Wailing sound
5 Society newcomer
8 Garbage barge
12 La Scala showstopper
13 Eventual aves
14 What beehives are made of?
15 Dissolve
16 Kids' card game
17 Gilligan's home
18 Hardly laugh-provoking
20 Her hubby made her lose her head
22 Grown-up elver
23 Government pro
24 Chess soldier
27 Branch
32 Swelled head
33 Broadcast
34 Timetable abbr.
35 Food for bears?
38 Provocative
39 Documentarian Burns
40 Type measures
42 Where the Vistula flows
45 Milky
49 MPs' quarry
50 Judge Lance
52 Roughly
53 Conan of NPR
54 "Eureka!"
55 Pirates' quenchers
56 Whirlpool
57 Started
58 Criterion

DOWN
1 Sweet potatoes
2 Sandwich cookie
3 Volition
4 Triangular sail
5 File transfer
6 Zsa Zsa's sister
7 Zinger
8 Civil War battle site in Tennessee
9 Docket
10 Unctuous
11 Small songbird
19 Yours truly
21 Chances, for short
24 Energy
25 In olden days
26 Amount of stuff to be done
28 Newton fruit
29 Mooch
30 Assoc.
31 Attempt
36 "No kidding?"
37 Hostel
38 Chaperone
41 Parental nickname
42 Sheet of glass
43 Unpaid
44 "— M for Murder"
46 Authentic
47 Doctrines
48 Expenditure
51 Commonest English word

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	I	D	S	■	P	A	M	■	S	P	O	T
E	D	.	T	■	E	G	O	■	C	R	U	E
T	F	A	R	D	R	O	P	■	R	O	S	E
S	A	I	O	N	■	■	S	P	A	R	E	S
■	■	■	B	A	B	E	■	L	M	A	■	■
G	A	P	E	■	L	A	D	E	■	T	H	E
O	V	A	■	C	A	G	E	S	■	E	I	N
O	E	R	■	A	H	E	M	■	A	D	D	S
■	■	■	R	A	P	■	R	O	O	F	■	■
R	H	O	D	E	S	■	■	L	L	A	M	A
I	O	T	A	■	P	R	E	D	A	T	O	R
C	L	E	M	■	A	I	R	■	M	O	N	K
K	F	D	S	■	R	O	F	■	F	P	O	S

Yesterday's answer 1-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alex D. Linz, 19; Danica McKellar, 33; Victoria Principal, 58; Stephen Stills, 63

Happy Birthday: Take a fresh look at some of your old ideas and you will come up with something that fits well with the times. You can secure your financial position if you take advantage of an offer being made. You will have some interesting chances to change your professional direction if you are aggressive. Your numbers are 4, 17, 20, 28, 31, 36

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let anyone play emotional games with you. Keep things simple. Put time aside to spend with someone you want to get to know better and it will lead to a great new partnership that will benefit you this year. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Consider what you can contribute in order to get along better with your peers. Taking a trip to visit someone with experience or attending an event that will enhance your knowledge will help you realize what it will take to get ahead. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): If you haven't been happy with what you have been doing, look into professional opportunities that are more satisfying. It's never too late to make a change. You are a quick learner, especially when you are passionate about what you are doing. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Open up emotionally and you will surprise someone who thinks you haven't been watching what's going on. Once you make your position known, you will receive added respect. A serious decision can take place regarding a partnership. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A little quiet time with the one you love will bring you back to reality and help you realize what's missing in your life. A change in your finances along with your surroundings may be what's needed. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Changes at home or between you and a friend or relative may be required for the relationship to continue on in a positive manner or for you to feel comfortable in your surroundings. Look at what you can do to lessen your dependence on one person. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't jump to conclusions, take on too much or put yourself in an unsavory position. Somebody will be all too happy to argue with you and that will lead to a stressful situation. Listen without voicing your opinion. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Emotions will get in the way of a good decision. Separate yourself from what others think or do. Reevaluate what is best for yourself. A business partnership is likely to be a little lopsided. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A problem will occur if someone you are in a personal or professional relationship with doesn't agree with you. Consider whether you are better off beginning the year by yourself. Make a decision and don't look back. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): An investment you put into play last year will prove to have been a wise choice. You can make a professional decision or move that will ensure greater prosperity. Someone may think you are being too serious about your financial position. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't put up with anyone playing emotional blackmail with you. If you are honest about the way you see things, you will stay in control and can manipulate the situation. Focus on a hobby or new project. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may have second thoughts about what you are doing or need to learn. If you are making your life more stressful financially by following a path that may not be necessary, rethink your steps. Sometimes less is more. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, mysterious, strong, stable and confident. You are willing to take charge and be aggressive to get your way.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			2					
	9	2	3			1	5	
	6		4				3	
				6		8	4	1
9	2	1		3				
	4				9		8	
	5	8			3	7	6	
					7			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	5	6	3	2	9	4	1	7
7	1	4	8	5	6	3	9	2
2	9	3	4	1	7	5	8	6
3	7	2	6	9	5	8	4	1
4	8	5	7	3	1	2	6	9
9	6	1	2	4	8	7	3	5
5	4	8	9	6	2	1	7	3
6	2	7	1	8	3	9	5	4
1	3	9	5	7	4	6	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/02

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS Solution: 7 letters

J	(H)	E	U	I	N	F	I	D	E	L	I	T	Y	H
U	W	(U)	S	S	U	B	J	E	C	T	E	F	C	I
R	E	H	(N)	U	S	T	C	A	F	S	I	A	H	R
I	I	C	O	(T)	O	N	L	N	A	T	Y	C	A	E
S	V	R	M	M	A	P	O	C	S	N	R	E	S	D
D	R	A	M	R	E	T	S	E	O	P	V	A	E	C
I	E	E	U	I	E	E	T	M	U	I	Y	S	C	Y
C	T	S	S	F	E	P	I	O	T	S	N	I	T	K
T	N	L	H	K	O	T	O	C	R	E	R	I	N	A
I	I	A	I	D	S	L	E	R	C	N	R	U	V	G
O	N	T	N	E	L	T	L	I	T	U	E	E	P	E
N	O	I	T	C	E	L	L	O	C	S	R	Y	A	N
O	F	V	A	D	A	T	A	E	W	I	F	E	C	C
A	N	E	O	P	B	U	S	C	F	W	I	T	T	Y
V	E	M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y	T	F	A	R	C	R

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 1/3

Agency, Attorney, Call, Case, Chase, Collection, Crafty, Data, Detective, Face, Facts, Find, Firm, Follow, Hint, Hired, Home, Hunt, Infidelity, Insurance, Interview, Jurisdiction, Licensed, Lost, Mystery, Pact, Pain, Pursue, Reports, Search, Security, Seek, Spouse, Spying, Subject, Subpoena, Summons, Testify, Testimony, Track, Verify, Vital, Wife, Witty

Yesterday's Answer: Haunting

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities," for $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $2 postage for the first book order, $1 each for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll free 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6665. Order online at upuzzles.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune's* print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*

• 1st position	**$10**
• 2nd position	**$3**
• Succeeding positions	**$1**

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

Combo (Print and Online)*

• 1st position	**$13**
• 2nd position	**$4**
• Succeeding positions	**$2**

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)

• Up to 6 positions	**$5**
• More than 6 positions	**$10**

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4545)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: housing self-provided; food self-provided; workmens compensation; medical. Contact: J. Lee Development Corp. @322-6290.

---

1 ASST. MANAGER/(SALES MARKET) (TH 4546)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: medical bill & workers compensation is company provided. Contact: Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy'z II Marine @234-3358.

---

2 SALES SUPERVISOR (TH 4547)
Salary:$700.00-$1,100.00/monthly. Benefits: housing self-provided; food self-provided; w/transportation service; workers compensation; medical expense. Contact: Commercial Trading of Spn Inc. @234-6089.

WHATZIT Solution:
Indiana Jones

---

1 CARPENTER (TH 4548)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: housing self-provided; food self-provided; w/transportation service; workers compensation; medical expense. Contact: Commercial Trading of Spn Inc. @234-6089.

1 MASON (TH 4549)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: food self-provided; w/transportation service; workers compensation; medical expense. Contact: Commercial Trading of Spn Inc. @234-6089.

1 (HARDWARE) MANAGER (TH 4550)
Salary:$700.00-$900.00/monthly. Benefits: housing er-provided; food self-provided; w/transportation service; workers compensation; medical expense. Contact: Commercial Trading of Spn Inc. @234-6089.

---

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4551)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: housing self-arranged; food self-provided; workers compensation; medical expense. Contact: Hiro Corporation @233-4997.

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Special Board Meeting** will be held on Saturday, January 5, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. and a joint meeting with Guam Visitors Bureau at 2:00 p.m. Both meetings will be at the Fiesta Resort and Spa, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950.

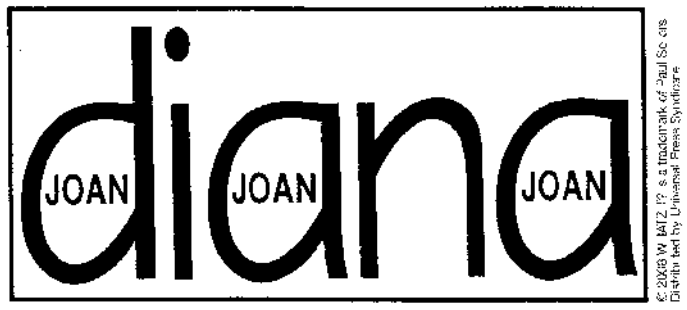
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

AGENDA

1. **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
2. **Public Comments**
3. **Committee Reports**
   a. Legislative and Policy - Ad Hoc Committee Matters
4. **Old Business**
5. **New Business**
   a. MVA & RRCC Joint Marketing Activities
   b. Japan Golf Fair
   c. Saipan Marathon Magazine Feature
   d. OZ In-flight Entertainment Magazine Advertisement
   e. PHILIPPINE TRAVEL EXPO 2008 Board Travel
   f. China Marketing Initiatives
   g. TBS (Tokyo Broadcasting System) support
   h. CNMI Tourism Ambassador:
      i. Mrs. Terumi Hirata - Hirata Shinsho Kai
      ii. Mr. Fumio Kuramoto - President of the Just Tours Systems
6. **Executive Session**
7. **Adjournment**

WHATZIT? ™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

1 ACCOUNTANT (TH 4552)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: housing self-arranged; food self-provided; workers compensation; medical expense. Contact: Hiro Corporation @233-4997.

---

1 (RESTAURANT) MANAGER (TH 4552)
Salary:$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: housing self-provide; food 1 or 2 duty meal free; medical; workers compensation provided. Repatriation by employer. Contact: YANO Enterprises, Inc. dba Kinpachi Restaurant @234-6900.

---

1 CONTRUCTION WORKER (TH 4553)
Salary:$3.75/hour. Benefits: medical; workers compensation. Contact: Hugh L. Hargrove dba Landmark Limited @235-3329.

---

3 CARPRENTER (TH 4554)
Salary:$3.55-$3.60/hour. Benefits: housing free; food employee provided; workers compensation; medical expenses. Contact: Sablan Enterprises, Inc. @234-1558.

---

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (TH 4555)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: housing self-arranged; food free; medical coverage expenses; workers compensation. Contact: ADPIA Communication Inc. dba Pink House @235-4499.

---

1 INTERPRETER (TH 4556)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation insurance provided by employer. Contact: Pacific International Corp. @234-1367.

---

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (TH 4557)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation insurance provided by employer. Contact: Diana & Daisy Corporation @235-0072.

---

1 MASSEUR/MASSEUSE (TH 4558)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation insurance provided by employer. Contact: Saipan Auto Clinic Company @234-0994.

1 MANAGER GENERAL (TH 4559)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation insurance provided by employer. Contact: Saipan Auto Clinic Company @234-0994.

---

1 COMMERICAL CLEANER (TH 4560)
Salary:$3.55/hour-$4.00/hour. Benefits: housing $150 monthly allowance; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Marianas Medical Center. Tel. 234-3926

---

1 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR (TH 4561)
Salary:$4.25/hour. Benefits: Workers Compensation and Medical Insurance, surety bond provided by employer. Contact: Anthony R. Sterns DBA Wireless Ridge Landscaping. Tel. 234-3926

1 ELECTRICIAN (TH 4562)
Salary:$4.75/hour. Benefits: housing $150 monthly allowance; medical insurance & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Anthony R. Sterns DBA Wireless Ridge Landscaping. Tel. 234-3926

---

1 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC (TH 4563)
Salary:$3.55/hour-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Employee self arrange housing; self provided food; Medical expenses & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: AA Enterprise, Inc. Tel. 322-4447.

---

1 MAINTENANCE/REPAIRER (TH 4564)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: self provided food; Health & worker's compensation coverage. Contact: Jeannette Mary T. Pangelinan. Tel. 483-3326.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE/ REPAIRS (TH 4565)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Health & worker's compensation coverage. Contact: Jeannette Mary T. Pangelinan DBA Twin Bean Apt. Tel: 483-3326.

---

1 KITCHEN HELPER (TH 4566)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & worker's compensation coverage. Contact: Rong Hua Corp. Tel. 233-4825.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER (TH 4567)
alary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing & Food self provided, Medical & worker's compensation coverage. Contact: Rong Hua Corp. Tel. 233-4825.

---

1 MAINTENANCE/REPAIRER (TH 4568)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Housing & Food self provided. Medical expenses & worker's compensation coverage. Contact: Letecia R. Soltenberg dba Janrome Gen Services Tel. 322-6506.

---

1 VIDEO SALES CLERK (TH 4570)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; transportation self provided; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: E.W.G.E. Corporation dba Kevin's Video II @235-6988/234-6988/256-6988/235-6986.

---

1 ENGINEER (CONSTRUCTION) (TH 4571)
Salary:$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical reimbursement & workers compensation. Contact: Wall Street Empire, Inc. dba D.C. Construction @234-3663.

---

1 UNDERWRITER (TH 4572)
Salary:$3.75-$9.10/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Century Insurance Co., Ltd. @234-0609.

---

1 (TOUR TRAVEL) COORDINATOR (TH 4573)
Salary:$3.55-$4.40/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Century Travel Agency Inc. @236-2400.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 SALES REP., MERCHANDISE (TH 4574)
Salary:$3.55-$3.95/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Cosmos Distr. Co., Ltd. @323-5950.

---

1 LANDSCAPER (TH 4575)
Salary:$3.55-$3.95/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: L&T International Corp. @236-2400.

1 MECHANIC, HEAVY EQUIPMENT (TH 4576)
Salary:$3.55-$4.20/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: L&T International Corp. @236-2400.

1 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4577)
Salary:$3.55-$4.20/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: L&T International Corp. @236-2400.

1 HOUSE KEEPER (TH 4578)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: L&T International Corp. @236-2400.

---

1 HOUSEWORKER (TH 4579)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Jerry Tan @236-2400.

1 HOUSEWORKER (TH 4580)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Jerry Tan @236-2400.

---

1 MANAGER, DEPARTMENT 1 (TH 4581)
Salary:$1,970.00-$2,170.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 CLERK, DOCUMENTATON BILL (TH 4582)
Salary:$3.55-$4.80/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE (TH 4583)
Salary:$3.55-$8.00/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 CLERK, DOCUMENTATION BILL (TH 4584)
Salary:$3.55-$5.25/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 SHIPPING SUPERVISOR (TH 4585)
Salary:$3.55-$6.05/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

---

1 CARGO HANDLER (TH 4586)
Salary:$3.55-$4.10/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (TH 4587)
Salary:$3.55-$5.75/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 PASSENGER SERVICE AGENT (TH 4588)
Salary:$3.55-$4.30/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 CARGO HANDLER (TH 4589)
Salary:$3.55-$4.10/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 PASSENGER SERVICE AGENT (TH 4590)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 CARGO HANDLER (TH 4591)
Salary:$3.55-$4.10/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

---

1 GENERAL MANAGER (TH 4592)
Salary:$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical are provided by the employer. Contact: Mac-US Int'l. Inc. dba New City Int'l Const. @288-0191.

1 (ASST.) GENERAL MANAGER (TH 4593)
Salary:$1,700.00/monthly. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical are provided by the employer. Contact: Mac-US Int'l. Inc. dba New City Int'l Const. @288-0191.

1 OPERATION MANAGER (TH 4594)
Salary:$3.75/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical are provided by the employer. Contact: Mac-US Int'l. Inc. dba New City Int'l Const. @288-0191.

1 CONST. WORKER (TH 4595)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical are provided by the employer. Contact: Mac-US Int'l. Inc. dba New City Int'l Const. @288-0191.

Make it a **daily** habit!
www.saipantribune.com

The Saipan Tribune now offers
Classified Ads Super Saver Package
for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more…

3-LINER AD $25
3-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $45
5-LINER AD $35
5-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $55

Get results. Advertise now!
Call now at 235-2769 for more details.

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Subscribe to CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
235-NEWS

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Electric fuel rates remain at highest ever. PAGE 2
2007 economic census begins in CNMI. PAGE 5
'Many still oppose federalization'
Sleep disruptions may up diabetes risk
Car slams into pole, 3 hurt by fireworks
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Rebates out for Christmas
Governor signs zoning bill into law

USC trounces Illinois 49-17 in Rose Bowl

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The loose balls? Southern California came up with them. Those crazy plays? They all went USC's way, too. The Trojans were every bit as good as advertised and the Rose Bowl was even more lopsided than expected. Freshman tailback Joe McKnight finished with 170 of USC's 633 yards in a record-setting romp Tuesday, 49-17 over outmatched Illinois.

Sixth-ranked USC (11-2) tied a Rose Bowl record with the 49 points and the total offense was a record, too. The blowout gave the Trojans 11 wins for an unprecedented sixth straight season and made them 5-1 in their last six bowl games, all of them BCS affairs.

The game featured 1,078 yards of offense. Despite the margin, things were truly competitive for a brief moment. Illinois' Rashard Mendenhall broke a 79-yard touchdown run early in the third quarter to trim what had been a three-touchdown deficit to 21-10.

Minutes later, Mendenhall scooted 55 yards with a screen pass from Juice Williams, and Ron Zook's 13th-ranked Illini (9-4) were looking as if they might really complete the impossible dream, from 2-19 over the last two years to Rose Bowl champions.

But two plays later, Kaluka Maiava popped the ball out of receiver Jacob Willis' hands and USC's Brian Cushing won a scramble in the end zone.

Then came the play of the game, when John David Booty threw a sloppy lateral to McKnight, who didn't catch it, but was able to scoop it up on the bounce and run 65 yards. McKnight was chased down by defensive back Vontae Davis—yes Zook is recruiting some speed to Champaign—but four plays later, Booty hit Fred Davis with a 2-yard touchdown pass and the rout was on.

Booty threw for 255 yards and three scores to set a Rose Bowl career record with seven TDs.

USC linebacker Rey Maualuga had three sacks and an interception for a defense that allowed only 79 yards in the first half.

McKnight, hyped as USC's next Reggie Bush, finished with 125 yards rushing and 45 yards receiving, and his broken play in the third quarter wasn't the only time the Trojans made something crazy and unexpected happen.

It started in the first quarter, when Booty lateraled to Garrett Green, who is listed as a receiver-quarterback, and Green threw crossfield to Desmond Reed for a 34-yard touchdown strike and a 14-0 lead. Reed was so open, he could've walked into the end zone, but instead did a leaping front tuck. Stuck the landing, too, but got six points instead of a perfect 10.0, and also was docked a 15-yard unsportsmanlike-conduct penalty.

That made no difference, and in the end, Illinois' nice little stretch of competitiveness in the third quarter was only a blip, as well.

Mendenhall finished with 214 total yards in what could be the last college game for the junior. Williams had 245 yards passing for the Illini, whose last Rose Bowl trip came 24 years ago and ended in a 45-9 loss to quarterback Rick Neuheisel and UCLA.

The score this time was similar, and not totally unexpected.

The Illini were 13 1/2-point underdogs—biggest of any of this season's 32 bowl games—and the final score only added fuel to the fire of those who criticized the Rose Bowl for passing on other available teams, maybe Georgia or Hawaii, and insisting on a Pac-10-Big Ten matchup.

Meanwhile, USC was said to be playing the best football of anyone when the regular season ended, and didn't do anything to debunk that theory.

Coach Pete Carroll, a proponent of a playoff, lobbied for the Trojans to have LSU's spot in next week's national title game, the first to include a team with two losses. But a 24-23 loss to 41-point underdog Stanford in October was USC's undoing.

On this day at the sunsplashed Rose Bowl, it was hard to imagine the Trojans losing to Stanford.

Not that they were perfect.

Early in the game, a snap sailed over punter Greg Woidneck's head and he had to scramble to get off a 20-yard punt. Later, Justin Harrison picked off Booty's pass and returned it to the USC 20, but Illinois couldn't score off that. Also in the first half, Harrison pulverized receiver Vidal Hazelton and sent the ball flying out, only to redirect into the waiting hands of McKnight.

The common denominator in all was that was that Illinois gave itself chances to make big plays but couldn't cash in on any.

And the Trojans, like any championship team, were in the right place at the right time for all of it.

AP

USC wide receiver David Ausberry (9) celebrates his touchdown with teammate Ronald Johnson during the fourth quarter against Illinois at the Rose Bowl football game, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008, in Pasadena, Calif.

CAPITAL ONE BOWL

Michigan 41, No. 9 Florida 35

At Orlando, Florida, Chad Henne threw for 373 yards and three touchdowns, Mike Hart ran for 129 yards and two scores and Michigan sent Lloyd Carr out a winner by beating Florida for its first bowl win since 2003.

Henne, Adrian Arrington and Mario Manningham torched Florida's secondary all game. Arrington caught nine passes for 153 yards and two touchdowns, and Manningham added five catches for 78 yards and a score.

The Gators (9-4) kept it close thanks to four turnovers and big plays by Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow and Percy Harvin, who ran 13 times for 165 yards and a TD, and caught nine passes for 77 yards and a score.

Florida failed to convert a fourth-down play at its 25 yard line, and K.C. Lopata's 41-yard field goal put Michigan (9-4) ahead 41-35 with 2:21 remaining.

The Gators got another shot, but Tebow threw four straight incompletions to end any chance of a comeback.

Playing with a broken bone in his non-throwing hand and facing constant blitzes, Tebow was 17-of-33 passing for 154 yards and three touchdowns. He also ran 16 times for 57 yards.

COTTON BOWL

No. 7 Missouri 38, No. 25 Arkansas 7

At Dallas, Missouri made its case for having deserved a chance in one of the elite bowl games, routing Darren McFadden and Arkansas in the Cotton Bowl to cap a magical season.

The biggest surprise is that the damage was done by running back Tony Temple, not quarterback Chase Daniel, a Heisman Trophy finalist like McFadden.

Temple, a 5-foot-9 senior who is often overlooked in Missouri's pass-heavy offense, broke long-standing Cotton Bowl records with 281 yards and four touchdowns. Both records fell on his last run, a spinning, tackle-breaking, 40-yarder into the end zone.

Mizzou (12-2) was ranked No. 1 after beating Kansas in the regular-season finale, then lost badly to Oklahoma in the Big 12 title game.

The No. 25 Razorbacks (8-5) made a horrible impression on incoming coach Bobby Petrino, from the defense allowing the most yards rushing by a single player to the sloppiness of five turnovers.

OUTBACK BOWL

No. 16 Tennessee 21, No. 18 Wisconsin 17

At Tampa, Florida, Erik Ainge threw for 365 yards and two touchdowns to keep No. 18 Wisconsin from joining Michigan as the only Big Ten teams to beat SEC opponents in bowl games three consecutive seasons.

Ainge completed 25 of 43 passes without a turnover to win MVP honors and help the No. 16 Vols (10-4) erase unpleasant memories of a 10-point loss to Penn State in last year's Outback game.

Antonio Wardlow sealed Tennessee's first 10-win season since 2004 when he intercepted Tyler Donovan's deep throw intended for Paul Hubbard in the end zone in the final minute.

Receiver Gerald Jones took a direct snap from center and scored on a 3-yard run, then Ainge tossed TD passes of 29 yards to Josh Briscoe and 31 yards to Brad Cottam to help Tennessee build a 21-7 lead.

Donovan's 4-yard TD to Andy Crooks trimmed Wisconsin's deficit to 21-14 at the half. The Badgers (9-4) pulled within four on Taylor Mehlhaff's 27-yard field goal in the closing seconds of the third quarter.

Donovan completed 14 of 24 passes for 155 yards. P.J. Hill returned to Wisconsin's offense after sitting out two games and missing part of two others, running for 132 yards on 16 carries.

GATOR BOWL

Texas Tech 31, No. 21 Virginia 28

At Jacksonville, Florida, Alex Trlica kicked a 41-yard field goal with 7 seconds left to give Texas Tech a come-from-behind victory over the No. 21 Cavaliers in a wild Gator Bowl.

Tech overcame pivotal penalties and a fumble to come back from a 28-14 fourth quarter deficit. Its aggressive pass offense couldn't score much for three quarters, but Graham Harrell still managed to completed 44 of 69 passes for 407 yards, all records, plus three TDs.

The comeback started when Harrell found Michael Crabtree for a touchdown—despite an interference call.

Tech scored its next touchdown after knocking the ball out of backup Virginia quarterback Peter Lalich's hands at the 4 yard line. Tech recovered and Aaron Crawford's 4-yard run a play later tied it at 28.

The Red Raiders overcame a tremendous effort by Virginia tailback Mikell Simpson, who ran for 170 yards on 20 carries—including a NCAA bowl-record 96-yard TD run—and caught another touchdown.

Virginia's offense wasn't the same after losing Jameel Sewell at the start of the fourth quarter. His statistics weren't outstanding—14-of-23 passing for 78 yards and a TD—but he commanded the offense well.

SUGAR BOWL

Georgia 41, Hawaii 10

At New Orleans, there was no repeat of the Boise State Miracle. The Georgia Bulldogs were simply too big, too fast and too strong for the team from paradise.

Hawaii's bid at perfection ended with a thud in the Sugar Bowl, where the black-clad Bulldogs took out their frustration at getting passed over for a shot at the BCS championship with a 41-10 rout of Colt Brennan and the overmatched Warriors on Tuesday night.

"We're No. 1," Georgia safety Kelin Johnson proclaimed. "We're supposed to be in the national championship game. The nation knows it, everyone knows it."

Getting a headstart on next season on the first day of the new year, No. 4 Georgia (11-2) established itself as a leading contender in 2008 with a total whippin' of the 10th-ranked Warriors (12-1), who cracked the BCS with an unbeaten run through the Western Athletic Conference.

They are perfect no more. This night was nothing but a four-hour-plus rendition of "Glory, Glory To Ol' Georgia."

Knowshon Moreno ran for a pair of touchdowns in the opening quarter and the Bulldogs' defense made life miserable for Brennan, a Heisman Trophy finalist and catalyst for the nation's highest-scoring team. He was sacked eight times, threw three interceptions and lost two fumbles, one of them recovered for a Georgia touchdown.

New York Knicks won't change coach

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—The New York Knicks may keep changing the lineups, but not the coach.

Isiah Thomas said Monday he would remain as coach, nearly two weeks after saying it would be fair to evaluate his performance in a "couple of weeks."

"We'll keep moving in this direction," Thomas said Monday when reminded of those comments after practice.

Asked what direction that was, Thomas responded: "Me as the coach."

Thomas, also the team president, was asked following practice on Dec. 18 how he would evaluate the coach if he were the general manager, and if he thought a change could be necessary there.

"That's a better question in a couple of weeks and not today, but in a couple of weeks," Thomas said at the time. "We'll see if we can come out of this. If we can't come out of this, then those are fair questions."

The Knicks haven't shown any signs of coming out of it. Though Thomas has made lineup changes before the last two games, New York has lost four in a row, falling to 8-21. Only the Miami Heat (8-23) have a worse record in the Eastern Conference.

Following a 100-83 loss to Chicago on Sunday, center Eddy Curry acknowledged that some players may be concerned about Thomas' future.

"You can't help but think about it, but we're trying," Curry said. "We're trying to win games, but I think it's definitely in the back of some people's minds. Just like we're really trying and we hope that our owner knows that we're trying and we don't believe that it's his fault that we're losing like this."

Thomas said Monday he wasn't worried about it, and said the players shouldn't be, either.

AP

New York Knicks coach Isiah Thomas looks up as the fans boo the team during the second quarter ofan NBA basketball game against the Chicago Bulls, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2007, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

"No, only thing that concerns me is can we stop the other guy and can we put the ball in the hole," Thomas said. "And that really should be the only thing on their minds. Put the ball in the hole and stop your man from scoring and get a couple of rebounds."

The last part may have been a dig at Curry, who came off the bench Sunday for the first time in two years. Thomas has been frustrated with the defense and rebounding of the 6-foot-11 center, who is averaging only 5.1 boards, worse than his 5.5 career average coming into the season.

Curry grabbed eight rebounds Sunday off the bench.

"It shows me that while he may not like the bench, it definitely had an effect on his rebounding effort and if he continues to rebound, then the minutes are there," Thomas said. "But from that position, we need rebounding and some shot blocking. And if we can't get the shot blocking, then we definitely need the rebounding. So you just can't have 16 points and two rebounds. That doesn't work."

The Knicks could make another lineup change Wednesday against Sacramento if either of their starting guards is ready to go.

Leading scorer Jamal Crawford, who missed Sunday's game with a bruised right hand, shot around during practice with a protective glove and said he expected to play. The Knicks called him questionable.

Stephon Marbury practiced, and Thomas said it would be the point guard's decision if he would return. Marbury has played in only three of 13 games since his father died on Dec. 2.

Chargers GM A.J. Smith gets extension

SAN DIEGO (AP)—After building the San Diego Chargers into a consistent playoff contender—if not yet a postseason success—general manager A.J. Smith received a five-year contract extension Tuesday that will keep him with the team through 2014. Details weren't announced, but various reports said the extension was worth $11 million.

Smith didn't return phone calls seeking comment.

Team president Dean Spanos was traveling and unavailable for comment, his secretary said.

Smith's previous contract was due to expire following the 2009 season. He was promoted in April 2003 after John Butler died of cancer.

The Chargers have won the AFC West for the third time in four seasons under Smith. They'll try to break a four-game postseason losing streak dating to January 1995 when they host the Tennessee Titans on Sunday in the wild-card round. Two of those playoff losses have come on Smith's watch.

Although it was Butler who drafted star running back LaDainian Tomlinson, Smith has proven to be a strong talent evaluator by drafting star players such as outside linebacker Shawne Merriman, quarterback Philip Rivers and cornerback Antonio Cromartie.

He's also signed undrafted players who developed into Pro Bowlers, most notably tight end Antonio Gates, a three-time All-Pro. Two other free agent pickups, guard Kris Dielman and special teams player Kassim Osgood, have developed into Pro Bowlers.

Smith is probably best known for holding his ground when Eli Manning's representatives told the Chargers just before the 2004 draft that the quarterback wouldn't play for San Diego if it took him with the first overall pick.

Smith drafted Manning anyway, then swapped his rights to the New York Giants for the rights to Rivers, as well as picks he used to take kicker Nate Kaeding later in that draft and Merriman the following year.

Smith also obtained wide receiver Chris Chambers from Miami at this year's trade deadline. The acquisition of Chambers has helped open up the running game.

The Chargers are 50-30 under Smith, but 0-2 in the postseason.

Smith became involved in a front-office soap opera when his relationship with coach Marty Schottenheimer soured to the point that the two men didn't talk to each other.

Schottenheimer was fired by Spanos in February, a month after the top-seeded Chargers fell apart in their playoff opener, a shocking 24-21 loss to the New England Patriots.

The Chargers also lost to the New York Jets in overtime in the 2004 wild-card round, also under Schottenheimer.

Smith hired Norv Turner to replace Schottenheimer. After a stunning 1-3 start, the Chargers head into the playoffs having won six straight and 10 of 12.

Texas prep coaches still want Rocket

HOUSTON (AP)—Roger Clemens is still welcome at a convention of Texas high school baseball coaches.

The group reconsidered its invitation after Clemens was mentioned prominently in the Mitchell Report on steroids. On Monday, the coaches said they found no reason to prevent the star pitcher from addressing their annual meeting next month.

"He still wants to come," said Jim Long, president of the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association. "He said he intends on speaking."

The group's decision was first reported by Houston television station KRIV.

"We're delighted at what they've done, (giving) him the benefit of the doubt we asked the public and everybody else to do," his attorney, Rusty Hardin, told KRIV.

In an interview that is set to air Sunday on 60 Minutes, Clemens will answer questions about the steroids accusations against him.

Long said his group left its options open depending on what Clemens says in the interview.

"If something else comes up, there may be a possibility he wouldn't come," Long said. "But unless there is some concrete evidence he is guilty or if the media circus would keep him from coming ... it would be unfair of us not to let him come."

Clemens had been scheduled for the last eight months to speak to the country's largest high school baseball coaches association about pitching and conditioning. The convention is Jan. 10-12.

Clemens was among the biggest names to appear in the Mitchell Report, a 409-page study by former Senate majority leader George Mitchell on the illegal use of steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs in baseball.

In a video posted Dec. 23 on the Web site of his foundation and on You Tube, Clemens denied using steroids.

In the Mitchell report, former Toronto and New York Yankees strength coach Brian McNamee said he injected Clemens with steroids in 1998 while with the Blue Jays, and in 2000 and 2001 while with the Yankees. McNamee also claimed he injected Clemens with human growth hormone in 2000.

NBA BRIEFS

Lakers' Odom suspended

NEW YORK (AP)—Los Angeles Lakers forward Lamar Odom was suspended for one game without pay Tuesday for committing a flagrant foul in the fourth quarter of his team's 110-91 loss to the Boston Celtics. Odom threw himself into Ray Allen and knocked the Boston guard to the floor with 2:56 remaining Sunday night and the outcome already decided. Besides the suspension, Odom was assessed a flagrant foul, penalty two, NBA executive vice president Stu Jackson said in a press release. Odom, who had 14 points and 10 rebounds in the one-sided loss to Boston, will serve his suspension Friday night when the Lakers (19-11) play the Philadelphia 76ers (14-17). Allen said the foul was "uncalled for." "I've never had any bad history with Lamar," Allen said Tuesday. "After the play happened, a couple of his teammates came back on the floor and just wanted to make sure I was all right. ... It was just uncalled for." Celtics coach Doc Rivers thought Odom was angry because he didn't get a foul call on the previous play. "I just thought he (Odom) lost his composure," Rivers said. "I didn't think it was intended at Ray. Whoever had the ball was getting that. It wasn't anything personal. Odom's a good kid, a good guy."

Nets hire former Nuggets GM Vandeweghe

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Former Denver general manager Kiki Vandeweghe has joined the Nets as a special assistant to New Jersey president Rod Thorn. Vandeweghe, who served as the Nuggets' general manager from 2001-06, will help Thorn prepare for the NBA Draft and in the evaluation of player personnel. "Kiki has been a mainstay in the league for almost two decades, first as an All-Star player and then as a front office executive," Thorn said. "His experience in both areas will be an invaluable asset to the franchise, and we look forward to his contributions." Vandeweghe reshaped the Nuggets during his tenure, signing free agents Andre Miller, Jon Barry, Earl Boykins and Voshon Lenard and selecting Carmelo Anthony with the third pick in the draft. He also acquired Nene and veteran Marcus Camby in a draft-day deal from New York in 2002, a season the Nuggets improved their win total by 26 games and reached the postseason for the first time since 1995. The following season, Vandeweghe engineered a trade with New Jersey to acquire All-Star forward Kenyon Martin. Prior to joining the Nuggets, Vandeweghe spent two seasons as an assistant coach and director of player development for the Dallas Mavericks. Vandeweghe played in the NBA from 1980-93 with Denver, Portland, New York and the Los Angeles Clippers.

NMASA monthly meeting today

By MARK RABAGO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Nominations for the prestigious CNMI Sports Hall of Fame will be accepted beginning today when the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association holds its monthly meeting at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

NMASA president Michael White said aside from selecting the newest batch of athletes, coaches, and sports managers who will be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame, the first organizational meeting of 2008 for the sports body will also serve as elections for the year's board of directors.

Also to be disused in the 7pm meeting is the date for the yearly Sports Banquet, update for preparations for the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in the Cook Islands, and a vote on NMASA Athletes of the Month for December 2007.

As always, NMASA member associations will vote for the best athletes for the previous month in four categories (male, female, male student, and female student).

NMASA reminds associations that will be nominating their athletes to submit written nominations in multiple copies to be distributed to members during the meeting.

Cook Islands, meanwhile, announced that 15 sports featured in the 2009 edition of the quadrennial Games. The 15 sports are up from the 12 offered during the VII Pacific Mini Games held in Koror, Palau in 2005.

Athletics, table tennis, triathlon, va'a or outrigger canoeing, and weightlifting, bodybuilding, boxing, lawn bowls, rugby league, and touch rugby are the sports lined up for the 2009 Cook Islands Pacific Mini Games.

White earlier said the CNMI could possibly send athletes in six of the sports, namely athletics, golf, table tennis, triathlon, sailing, and va'a or outrigger canoeing.

White earlier advised all six sports federations to start preparing for the 2009 Pacific Mini Games.

"The cost of participation is $3,200 per person, about the same in what we budgeted [going] to Samoa. Now is the time to start getting organized and raising funds."

D9ERS

From Page 28

two runs for the Tigers. Tenorio also had a double, while Hocog had an RBI single in the top of the sixth.

Earlier, Team Rubak coasted to an 18-8 triumph over Dreams with Dennis Ngeskebei earning the win after pitching two innings in the match shortened by the 10-run mercy rule.

Starter Ngeskebei allowed five runs—all unearned—on four hits fanning five and walking three batters. Paul Rengiil. pitched three innings in relief giving up three earned runs on four this with four strikeouts and four walks.

Ted Ngewakl went 2-for-3, with one run, a double, and three RBIs while Dennis Renguul, 2-for-4, scored two runs and had two doubles. Mabel Ngirngemelas walked in his first at bat but scored twice, had a double, and two RBIs.

Catcher Poland Masaharu went 2-for-3 scoring four runs and had an RBI double in the bottom of the second that highlighted their five-run inning.

Nick Guerrero and Mark Flores was the lone bright spot for the Dreams with Guerrero going 3-for-3 with a double and two RBIs. Flores went 3-for-4 with three runs and an RBI.

A make-up game between D9ers and Dreams was being played at press time. Three more make-up games will be played tomorrow and on Saturday. The games were the rained out matches last Nov. 11 and Nov. 24.

Tomorrow, Friday, Team Rubak will face the Tigers at 6:30pm and on Saturday, Jan. 5; Dreams battle the Tigers at 10 am, while Rubak clashes with the D9ers at 1:00 pm.

After the make-up games of the elimination round, the playoff round begins on Jan. 12, Saturday with the team that won the pennant facing the fourth-ranked squad, while the second seed takes on No. 3.

The winners of the playoffs will then move on to the one-game finals on Jan. 19, Saturday, while the losers play for the consolation match.

EPARWA

From Page 28

game series of 232, 280, 204, and 201 for an 817 total and a 204.25 average.

Manacop did not compete on Sunday but his Dec. 23 score of 814—228, 180, 204, and 210 for a 203.5 average—was enough for him to finish third.

Eparwa won the $100 top purse with Barja and Manacop settling for the $50 and $30 second and third place cash prizes.

In the Queen of the Lanes, Williams was her usual dominating self winning her fourth monthly title after racking up 781 pins in the four-game series.

She had a rough-and-tumble four-game series of 213, 182, 159, and 227 for a 781 tally and a 29-pin lead over Gigi Zapanta's 752. Williams averaged 195.25 pinfalls in the four-game series against the 188 recorded by Zapanta.

Actually, the 781 scored by Williams was the one that she recorded during the Dec. 23 roll-off. She was not that lucky on Sunday after finishing with a 588.

Ron Cal rounded up the Top 3 with a final score of 746—195, 202, 190, 159—for a 186.5 average.

It was Williams' second back-to-back Queen of the Lanes titles as she also won the November roll-off. She also topped the March and April monthly tournaments.

Williams won $60 for her feat with Zapanta pocketing $30 while Cal earned $20.

The monthly King and Queen of the Lanes winners will join 24 other bowlers who ranked in the top 36 in the season-ending finals. However, in the event the 13th to 36th ranked bowlers do not register for the three-game elimination round, a lower ranked bowler may qualify.

Nonetheless, only bowlers that have competed in six of the 12 monthly roll-offs in 2007 can join.

Bowlers ranked 13th to 36th will bowl in a three-game roll-off. The Top 12 bowlers from the roll-off will then advance to play in a nine-game roll-off against the top 12 bowlers based on the bowler ranking system.

The nine-game roll-off will determine the Top 6 bowlers who will advance to the stepladder finals.

In the Prince of the Lanes on Dec. 23, Jeremy Williams won the final roll-off beating three-time monthly winners Jamie Vales and Raphael Zapanta.

Williams crowned himself after completing a four-game series total of 834 pinfalls, his highest so far this year. He previously scored 784 when he won the July monthly crown.

Williams, who pocketed the $20 top prize, enjoyed a 137-pin lead over closest pursuer Vales' 697. Vales took home $15 while Zapanta came in third with a 645 to claim an additional $10.

SAIWAI

From Page 28

Like last year, SAIWAI will start the year off with its annual Valentine's Walk to commemorate the Day of Hearts in February and capped by the club's yearly Christmas Walk in the Marianas in December.

President Jesus T. Guerrero, vice president Yoichi Matsumura, secretary Mario K. Espeleta, treasurer Asuncion "Bea" Quitugua, and directors Hiroko Tajima, Hiroko Tenorio, and Mark Rabago will make sure that the island's walking enthusiasts start the year on the right foot when SAIWAI hosts its 7th Annual Valentines Walk on Feb. 9.

According to SAIWAI, the 5- and 10-kilometer walking event is held "in the spirit of Valentine's Day honoring love and lovers while focusing in enhancing the wellness of the heart and physical well-being through non-competitive walking."

SAIWAI will then hold the combined 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day on May 11 in cooperation with J.M. and Associates.

Named after former first lady Sophia Tenorio, SOPHIA stands for Saipan Outdoor Physical Health Invigorating Adventure, while World Walking Day was initiated by the International Federation of Popular Sports and is celebrated in the month of May by IVV member countries and direct member clubs around the world.

The 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day will be held along the beautiful shore of the Saipan Beach Pathway. It will also offer both 5- and 10-kilometer routes.

On July 12, SAIWAI members and guests are in for a treat as the walking club holds the 2nd Annual PTI Aqua Walk.

Formerly called the Pan Pacific IVV Saipan Festival/Aqua Walk, the event will be held behind the Aquarius Beach Tower, in the lagoon and the coastline of the beach.

Participants get to experience the health-giving and therapeutic effects of the ocean water as they walk in the lagoon. The event is held in the morning in line with daily tide predictions. As its new name suggests, the Aqua Walk is sponsored by PTI.

SAIWAI then celebrates the organization's birth on Aug. 16 by holding its 7th Annual Foundation and Family Day Walk. The 5- and 10-kilometer walk is held to commemorate the founding of the association and to promote family, public health, and a better quality of life through walking.

In collaboration with Friends of the Saipan Beach Pathway and the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, SAIWAI will host the 8th Annual Thanksgiving "Don't Be A Turkey" Walk on Nov. 22.

The walk traditionally begins at the Chamolinian Cultural Village in Garapan and takes participants along the flame tree-, coconut palm-, and ironwood tree-lined route of the Saipan Beach Pathway.

SAIWAI then puts a bookend to 2008 by staging its annual Christmas Walk in the Marianas on Dec. 20. Coinciding with the start of the Christmas celebration in the Marianas, the walk starts at the Chamolinian Cultural Village and is again held in partnership with Friends of the Saipan Beach Pathway.

Like in the past, all six events are sanctioned by IVV and as such SAIWAI and IVV members will receive credit for joining.

IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

For more information about SAIWAI and its seven events for 2007, contact Espeleta at 322-8876, Tenorio at 322-8781, or Quitugua at 285-1694.

SAIWAI was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on July 27, 2001 and was established to promote public health through non-competitive walking.

HOLIDAY

From Page 28

the games when they face the Eagles at 5pm.

Saturday's lone game will have the Sixers playing against the Lil' Sonics for the final match in the elimination round. The consolation match will take place at 10am with the third and fourth place teams battling for the third place trophy while the top two squads clash for the title in the 11:30am finals.

The Holiday Hoops tournament was originally scheduled last week but was pushed back to give other teams to complete their rosters and organizers more time to make sure competition will run smoothly.

The Holiday Hoops, organized by the Division of Youth Services and the Mayor's Office in cooperation with the Division of Sports and Recreation, was originally scheduled to run from Dec. 27 to 29.

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' two divisions along with the Mayor's Office also held the 2007 Thanksgiving Softball Tournament last month.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	26	3	.897	_
Toronto	17	15	.531	10 1/2
New Jersey	14	16	.467	12 1/2
Philadelphia	14	17	.452	13
New York	8	21	.276	18

Southeast Division

Orlando	22	11	.667	_
Atlanta	15	13	.536	4 1/2
Washington	15	14	.517	5
Charlotte	11	18	.379	9
Miami	8	23	.258	13

Central Division

Detroit	24	7	.774	_
Indiana	15	17	.469	9 1/2
Cleveland	14	17	.452	10
Chicago	11	18	.379	12
Milwaukee	11	19	.367	12 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	21	8	.724	_
Dallas	20	11	.645	2
New Orleans	20	11	.645	2
Houston	15	16	.484	7
Memphis	8	22	.267	13 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	18	12	.600	_
Portland	18	13	.581	1/2
Utah	17	16	.515	2 1/2
Seattle	9	22	.290	9 1/2
Minnesota	4	26	.133	14

Pacific Division

Phoenix	22	9	.710	_
L.A. Lakers	19	11	.633	2 1/2
Golden State	19	13	.594	3 1/2
Sacramento	11	18	.379	10
L.A. Clippers	10	19	.345	11

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, Clev.	26	266	185	749	28.8
Bryant, LAL	30	273	215	814	27.1
Iverson, Den.	30	263	236	789	26.3
Anthony, Den.	30	280	187	770	25.7
Jefferson, N.J.	30	236	255	745	24.8
Wade, Mia.	24	196	201	595	24.8
Boozer, Utah	32	323	124	770	24.1
Redd, Mil.	30	233	192	718	23.9
Howard, Orl.	33	259	237	755	22.9
McGrady, Hou.	25	214	105	569	22.8
Davis, G.S.	32	249	147	715	22.3
Butler, Wash.	28	239	110	620	22.1
J. Johnson, Atl.	28	221	125	618	22.1
Stoudemire, Phoe.	28	229	152	611	21.8
Jamison, Wash.	29	232	118	632	21.8
Nowitzki, Dall.	31	236	175	673	21.7
Pierce, Bos.	29	199	175	627	21.6
Paul, N.O.	29	230	129	623	21.5
Carter, N.J.	25	189	121	536	21.4
Yao, Hou.	31	237	187	661	21.3

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Biedrins, G.S.	148	232	.638
Bynum, LAL	147	237	.620
Chandler, N.O.	137	224	.612
Howard, Orl.	259	425	.609
O'Neal, Mia.	166	282	.589
Stoudemire, Phoe.	229	392	.584
Boozer, Utah	323	578	.559
Smith, Minn.	133	241	.552
Garnett, Bos.	220	400	.550
Haywood, Wash.	109	200	.545

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, Orl.	33	120	391	511	15.5
Camby, Den.	29	91	322	413	14.2
Kaman, LAC	29	98	311	409	14.1
Jefferson, Minn.	30	124	238	362	12.1
Chandler, N.O.	30	126	231	357	11.9
Boozer, Utah	32	97	270	367	11.5
Jamison, Wash.	29	79	235	314	10.8
Okafor, Char.	29	103	205	308	10.6
Yao, Hou.	31	97	232	329	10.6
Garnett, Bos.	29	58	246	304	10.5

Assists

	G	TOT	AVG
Nash, Phoe.	31	385	12.4
Kidd, N.J.	29	308	10.6
Paul, N.O.	29	295	10.2
Williams, Utah	33	288	8.7
Tinsley, Ind.	29	251	8.7
Calderon, Tor.	32	260	8.1
Davis, G.S.	32	259	8.1
Billups, Det.	29	224	7.7
James, Clev.	26	198	7.6
Iverson, Den.	30	214	7.1
Williams, Mil.	29	205	7.1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Masters Baseball Standings

D-9ers	6	1
Rubak	6	1
Tigers	1	6
Korean Dreams	1	6

Bud Cup Standings

x-Ol'Aces	11	1
y-Suns	10	2
Rock Steady	9	2
Sonics	8	3
Junior Nationals	6	3
PTI/FMI	5	5
Bombers	5	6
G-Rollers I	5	6
Runnin Rebels	4	5
D-I Ulloa's	4	7
G-Rollers II	3	9
Lali IV	1	10
Proa	0	11

x-clinched pennant
y-clinched playoff spot

Island Relay attracts early birds

Participants of the 25th Annual Christmas Island Relay pose for a group photo after completing the early Saturday morning run from the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi.

Lewie Tenorio, right, raises his arms as he runs together with, Fred Camacho, second right, Chang Wang Jang, second left, and an unidentified runner.

Photos and Text by JON PEREZ
REPORTER

More than 70 running enthusiasts made the early morning sacrifice to compete in the 25th Annual Christmas Island Relay held last Saturday from the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi.

The runners, some competed in five-person teams or ran the entire 13.7-mile course, were mostly athletes from the Northern Marianas Athletics and regulars of triathlon and various running events on Saipan.

Leading the list of winners in the team competition was the Jacque Wonenberg-led We Are Legend, which finished the course in one hour, 33 minutes, and four seconds.

Helping Wonenberg finish first were Nate Mateo, Matthew Mancao, Reylynn Sapong, and Ken Yoshimoto.

Team SaipanCell of James Lee, Yvette Bennett, Keone Chariton, and brothers James and Joe Villacrusis clocked in at 1:43.16, while a team composed of Nora Ada, Lynn Tenorio, Robert Torres, Michael Villagomez, and Tom finished third with a time of 1:50.14.

The Department of Public Safety, led by commissioner Rebecca Warfield, also competed in the relay race and entered three teams.

A number of individuals also used the island relay as a training event for this month's Saipan full and half marathon with Coco Restaurant's Ronald Villafria emerging as the fastest runner when he completed the solo run in 1:48.50.

Lawyer Steve Pixley finished second with a time of 1:54.18, while Butch Sublemente completed the Top 3 (1:57.26). In the women's division, Maimi was the top runner with Monica Yamaguchi coming in shortly.

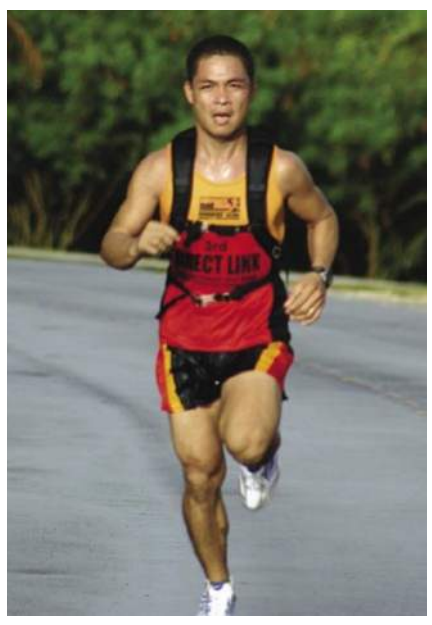
Clockwise, from left, Yvonne Bennett, Steaven Tenorio, John Ada, Allen Moses, and Mrs. Angelo.

Team SaipanCell enjoys a light moment after completing the 13.7-mile long course. From left, Joe Villacrusis, James Lee, Yvette Bennett, Keone Chariton, and James Villacrusis.

Department of Public Safety commissioner Rebecca Warfield, front row center, joins Team DPS members for a group photo.

From left, Gary Ramsey, Dawn Hammermeister, Neghar Rastguiy, and Florian Braig join hands as they prepare to cross the finish line.

Team I Love Saipan, composed of the Schultz family, nears the finish line. Running for the team are Rob and Brenda Schultz with daughter Madison and sons Kenyon and Crosby.



Men's individual winners Ronald Villafria is all concentration as he nears the finish line. Villafria ran the whole 13.7-mile course alone.

Maimi heads toward the finish line.

Monica Yamaguchi lets out a scream as she nears the finish line at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

Island Relay attracts early birds

More than 70 running enthusiasts made the early morning sacrifice to compete in the 25th Annual Christmas Island Relay held last Saturday from the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi.

27

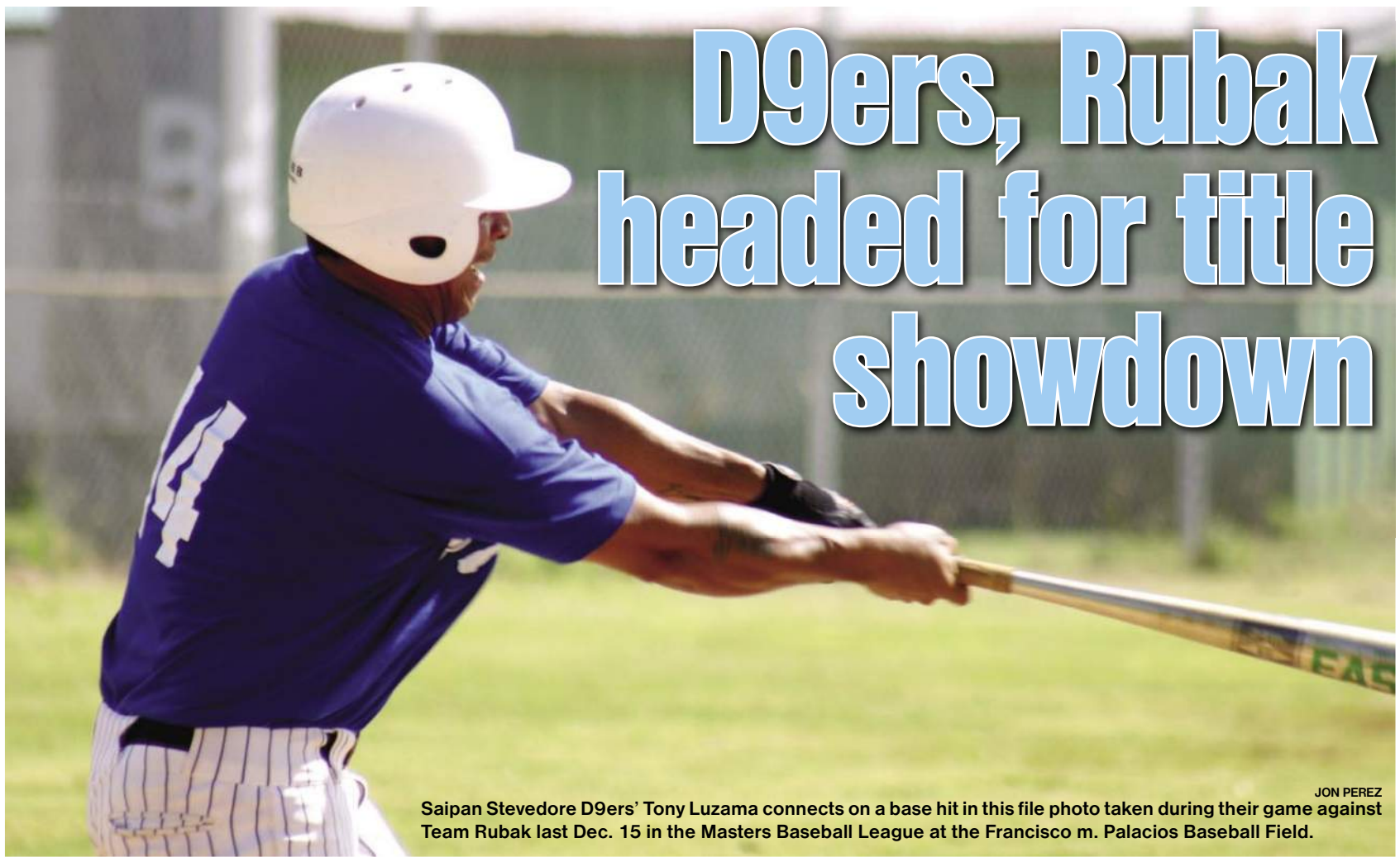
Saipan Tribune
Sports

USC trounces Illinois 49-17 in Rose Bowl

The loose balls? Southern California came up with them. Those crazy plays? They all went USC's way, too.

24

D9ers, Rubak headed for title showdown



JON PEREZ

Saipan Stevedore D9ers' Tony Luzama connects on a base hit in this file photo taken during their game against Team Rubak last Dec. 15 in the Masters Baseball League at the Francisco m. Palacios Baseball Field.

By JON PEREZ
REPORTER

Unless the other two teams pull off stunning upsets in the playoff round, Saipan Stevedore D9ers and Team Rubak might be headed for a title showdown in the Masters Baseball League.

D9ers and the Atty. Johnson Toribiong-sponsored Rubak continued their dominance against the Bob O'Connor Tigers and the Korean Dreams as the masters league enters its homestretch.

D9ers squeezed out an 8-7 win over the Tigers, while Rubak thrashed the Dreams, 18-8. Both teams still hold similar 6-1 records, while their opponents are still tied with 1-6 slates.

Ben Mesa, Ton Luzama, and Ton Camacho teamed up to hand D9ers the thrilling win.

The score was tied at 7-7 and pitcher Camacho shut down the Tigers in the top of the seventh forcing Roland Sablan, Bob O'Connor, and Jeff Cabrera either to fly out or ground out for a 1-2-3 inning.

Leading off the bottom of the seventh inning, Luzama was then hit by an Ed Santos pitch then advanced to second on a Joseph Tenorio single.

Mesa, who replaced Bob Lizama at shortstop in the top of fourth, then stepped to the plate and ripped a double that found a gap between right center field to let Luzama score the winning run.

Mesa did not score a run but went 2-for-3 with a double and three RBIs. He also had a two-RBI single in the D9ers' four-run fifth inning that allowed them to come back from a 0-3 deficit.

Paul Camacho went 3-for-4 with one run, a double, and two RBIs, while Greg Camacho went 2-for-4, scored a run, had two doubles, and two RBIs.

Ton Camacho earned the win for D9ers pitching a complete game, giving up two earned runs on nine hits with no strikeouts and five walks.

Manny Tenorio and Ben Hocog combined for 4-for-8 in batting and

See D9ERS on Page 28

Holiday Hoops kicks off today

By JON PEREZ
REPORTER

Six teams will battle it out for the 4th Annual Christmas 14-and-under Basketball Tournament title, which opens at 9am today at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Junior Sonics and the San Antonio Sixers open up the tournament at 9am and six more matches are lined up for the day in the single round-robin format with the top two teams advancing to the finals.

Other competing teams in Holiday Hoops are the G-Stars, Lil' Sonics, Tinian, and the Grace Christian Academy Eagles.

The second game will feature the G-Stars against the Lil' Sonics at 10:30am and will be followed by the Tinian-Eagles match at 12pm. The Junior Sonics clash with the Lil' Sonics at 1:30pm with the Sixers taking on Tinian at 3pm.

The 4:30pm contest will pit the G-Stars against the Eagles, while the Junior Sonics close out the first day of competitions against Tinian at 6pm.

Friday's games will start at 8am with the Eagles facing the Sixers, while the G-Stars take on Tinian at 9:30am. The 11am contest will have the Junior Sonics clashing with the Eagles while the Sixers collide with the G-Stars at 12:30pm.

The Lil' Sonics will meet Tinian in the 2pm match, while the Junior Sonics will duke it out against the G-Stars at 3:30pm. The Lil' Sonics will end

See HOLIDAY on Page 28

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

December Queen of the Lanes Emi Williams, center, is joined by Gigi Zapanta, right, and Ron Cal in the winners' circle.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jon Eparwa displays the $100 he won for topping the December King of the Lanes.

Eparwa, Williams are December's top keglers

By JON PEREZ
REPORTER

Jon Eparwa and Emi Williams will try to use their recent victory in the December King and Queen of the Lanes as a momentum builder when they compete in the season-ending tournament next week.

Eparwa and Williams won the final monthly roll-off held Sunday, Dec. 30, at the Capital Bowling Center.

Eparwa beat the 814 scored by Simon Manacop last Dec. 23 to claim the December King title after bowling a four-game series total of 821 pinfalls.

The Saipan Bowling Center/J's Restaurant employee started out slow with a 192 but picked his game up in the final three games bowling in the 200s—224, 200, and 205—in the next three games to register a 205.25 average.

Eparwa's 821 total allowed him to enjoy a four-pin lead over closest pursuer Kitz Barja, who bowled a four-

See EPARWA on Page 28

SAIWAI maps out six events for 2008

By MARK RABAGO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan Walking Association, Inc. is greeting the New Year by releasing its schedule of event for 2008 and once again like last year, the local walking club will have a lean-but-mean slate of activities.

This year's list will have six events instead of the seven organized in 2007 as SAIWAI decided to combine the SOPHIA Walk and its annual World Walking Day into one activity, dubbed the 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day.

See SAIWAI on Page 28

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Walking Association, Inc. will have six walking activities this year. File photo above shows participants enjoy one of the seven events held last year.